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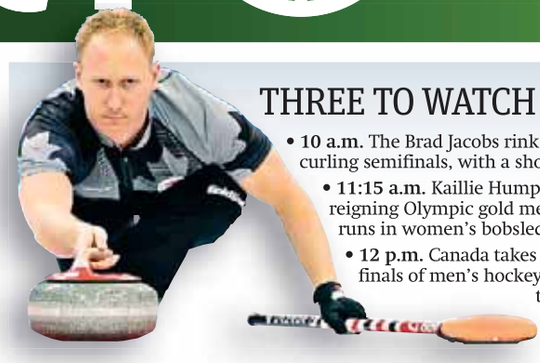
NEWS WORTH SHARING.

Are exotic pets simply born to be wild?

Metro kicks off its three-day analysis with a look at what it takes to own a serval cat ... or 16-foot python PAGES 10 & 11

Mr. Harper, with these we can smoke the competition

Series of Justin Trudeau rolling papers become an instant collectors' item PAGE 3



THREE TO WATCH IN SOCHI

- **10 a.m.** The Brad Jacobs rink will meet China in the men's curling semifinals, with a shot at gold on the line.
- **11:15 a.m.** Kaillie Humphries and Heather Moyes, the reigning Olympic gold medallists, take their final two runs in women's bobsled.
- **12 p.m.** Canada takes on Latvia in the quarter-finals of men's hockey. Latvia was winless in its first three games before upsetting Switzerland in the qualifier.

GREG DOWNS/FOR METRO

RISE OF THE SILVER SKATERS

From left: Canada's Marie-Eve Drolet, Valerie Maltais and Marianne St-Gelais react after winning the silver medal in the women's short-track 3,000-metre relay in Sochi on Tuesday. Not pictured is team member Jessica Hewitt. Mike Riddle also won the first Olympic silver medal in ski halfpipe for Canada. For more Olympic coverage, go to pages 29-30. PAUL CHAISSON/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Finally, let's get this chow on the road

Food trucks. Era of hot dogs may be coming to an end as councillors herald new regulations

Finally, after nearly seven years of planning, thousands of hours of debate and a disastrous first attempt, Toronto is on the verge of passing street-food policy that could actually lead to street food being sold.

"It's going to happen, come hell or high water," said Coun. Mary-Margaret McMahon. "It's long overdue."

Multiple councillors say city staff will soon put forward a series of recommendations to allow food trucks to easily operate throughout Toronto.

If everything goes according to plan, by this summer Torontonians will have access to smoked-meat sandwiches, Mexican churros and authentic Italian pasta dishes on sidewalks across town.

Chef Zane Caplansky, who has been on the front lines of Toronto's street-food war, said he's not giving up hope the city will come to its senses — but he'll believe it when he sees it.

"I'm hopeful that they're finally getting the message that food trucks work in Toronto the same way they work in every other city in North America," he said.

He cautioned that any recommendations that don't allow vendors to sell from the curb won't work. People need to be able to line up on the sidewalk, not in some far-off parking lot.

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Crime down after Dixon raids: Police

Project Traveller.
Spotlight on June raids intense after links made between towers, some accused, the mayor and crack video

Police say violent crime is down in the city's northwest after a massive guns and gang sweep this summer, as neighbourhood officers continue to build inroads in person — and now over the phone.

"From a realistic perspective — and I don't want to jinx this — the violent crime has decreased significantly," said Supt. Ron Taverner, commander of the police division encompassing north Etobicoke and Rexdale.

That positive shift also extends to the Dixon Road community, Taverner said, where eight months ago dozens of officers raided six apartment towers in Project Traveller.

More than 50 people were arrested and accused of smuggling guns and drugs, and belonging to the Dixon City Bloods gang.

The hesitation to declare crime eradicated stems from criticism that often follows major gang projects — that large sweeps create a vacuum, leaving an opportunity for crime to resurface.

Deputy Chief Peter Sloly said no reported homicides or shootings in that area, ranked one of the city's most violent, is a "substantial success."

But, he said, that success should not be taken for granted.

"I don't want either the officers or the community to feel that we've won," he said. The pressure to reduce crime and keep it that way must be consistent. "We haven't won until there's zero crime for 1,000 years."

So the rebuilding that began after the raids with the Somali Liaison Unit — a team of six officers committed to policing in the Dixon Road, Queen's Plate Drive and Islington Avenue communities for two years — will continue.

The changes so far — including an open line of communication — have made a difference, Laush said.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Reaching out

The Somali Liaison Unit, none of whom are Somali, have recently started language lessons.

- In November, Toronto police, RCMP and CSIS held a Somali-focused recruiting session which 50 young adults attended, some of whom the unit is now trying to mentor through the process.

Hearts and minds with Ukraine

Canadian-Ukrainians held a mass rally and candlelight vigil Tuesday night at the Consulate of Ukraine in Etobicoke, after at least 18 people were killed and scores injured Tuesday in battles between anti-government protestors and police in Kyiv. More coverage, page 8.

ANDREW FRANCIS WALLACE/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Blunt memo leads to Trudeau rolling papers

Trudeau Zig-Zag papers. ANDREW FRANCIS WALLACE/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

A Toronto marijuana activist is doing a brisk trade in rolling papers stamped with Justin Trudeau's face — and he has the Conservatives to thank for the idea.

Chris Goodwin, manager of Vapor Central in Toronto, has sold more than $500 worth of Trudeau-stamped rolling papers in a little more than a day since they hit the shelves in his marijuana-smoking lounge.

He says he got the idea from reading a story last week in the Toronto Star featuring leaked Conservative plans to disrupt the Liberals' convention in Montreal this coming weekend.

One of the "gimmicky" tactics discussed by the Conservatives in the memo was a plan to ridicule Trudeau's pro-legalization policies on marijuana by handing out Zig Zag brand rolling papers at the convention, embossed with Trudeau's face.

But one person's attack ad can be another person's entrepreneurial inspiration — not to mention a financial windfall.

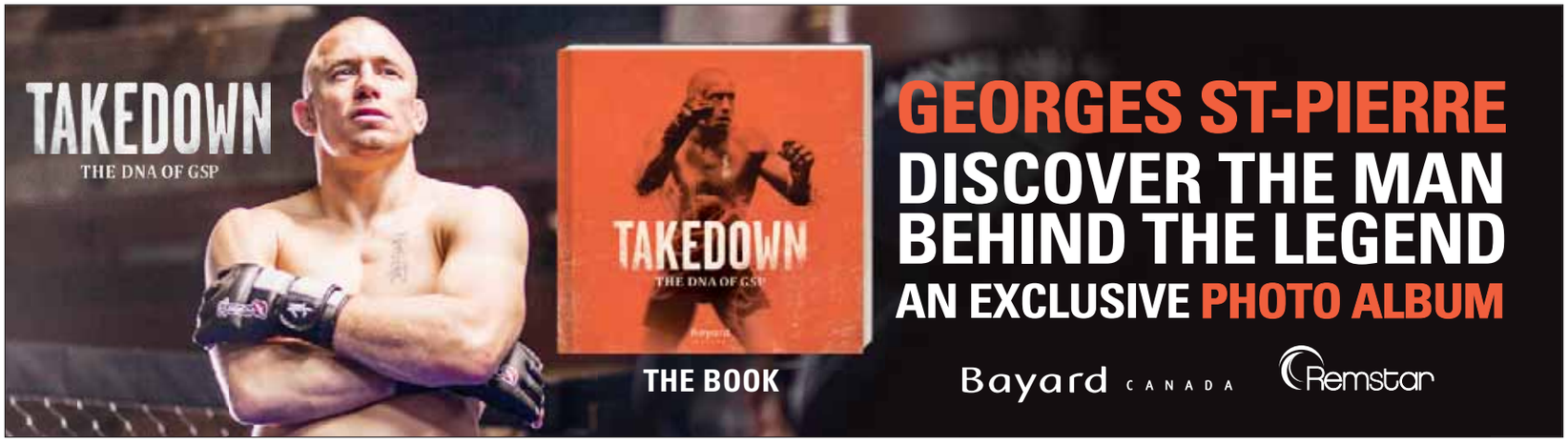
Looking ahead

"Most people are saying this is a positive thing. These are great collectors' items."
Chris Goodwin, Vapor Central manager

Goodwin said the more he thought about the "low tactic," the more it seemed like a good way to have a little political fun with marijuana. He played around with some images and created his own rolling papers, featuring a black-and-white portrait of Trudeau smoking a marijuana cigarette.

The product had an instant "cool factor," Goodwin says, and more than 100 packs were sold within about 36 hours after they went up for sale Monday morning. They're also available for sale online at theherbcollective.com.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE



Bird's-eye view of a changing city

Do the evolution.
Toronto Historic Maps tool combines maps and aerial images dating back to 1818

JESSICA SMITH CROSS
jessica.smithcross@metronews.ca

A new, free online map of Toronto lets users search for a location and then scroll through history and see a bird's-eye view of how it's changed over time.

The Toronto Historic Maps tool was built when local historical maps enthusiast Nathan Ng teamed up with Chris Olsen, a tech support employee at Esri, a California company that makes mapping software.

Ng had compiled a group of historical maps from the Toronto Library and Toronto archives and posted them in easy-to-browse format on his website. He blogged about how he would like to see someone make "a jazzed-up, interactive version, or a gigantic 'all in one file' image carefully stitched together."

That someone was Olsen, who had recently created just that — using his skills and some of his company's resources — for Cleveland and Pittsburgh.

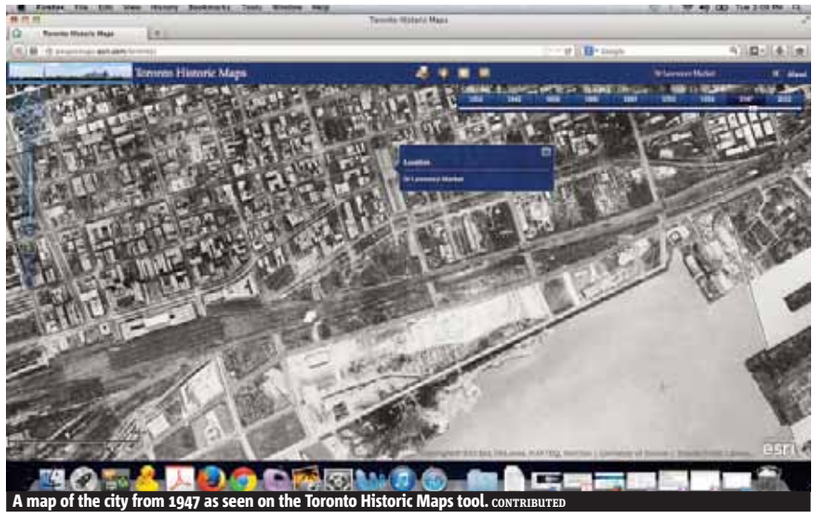
The online mapping tool he made combines maps of Toronto ranging from 1818 to 1924 as well as aerial images from 1924 and 2012. Using a search field, you can locate addresses and landmarks and then scroll through to see the maps change over time.

Ng is happy with the result.

"To look at a given neighbourhood or street and slide through the years, and see how the buildings have changed over time — and sometimes, what's also interesting is to see what's stayed the same," he said.

Olsen built the map viewer by "geo-referencing" the maps — entering control points on the maps into software that stitched maps of the same years together — and then lined them up year-over-year, adding a scroll bar that fades one map year into another, so the map evolves on a timeline.

"You can see how things change over time. You can see how a field becomes a network of streets and then there's houses overlaid on it," he said.



A map of the city from 1947 as seen on the Toronto Historic Maps tool. CONTRIBUTED

For example, if you search the St. Lawrence Market you can see the creation of the first brick market buildings, and see the waterfront get farther and farther away as generations of Torontonians built out into the lake.

Olsen said there are many more maps that can be added — for example, there are plenty of aerial images that he's hoping to access and add to the map viewer.

Olsen's mapping projects in other cities have been used by city planners, students and residents who are curious to learn about the history of their neighbourhoods.

"It gives you a sense of place and your own community," he said.

To view the online mapping tool, go to peoplemaps.esri.com/toronto/.

Falling ice, snow

Look out below!

The ability of Toronto's new energy-efficient towers to contain heat has a dangerous downside: Their exteriors can get so cold that ice and snow build up and eventually crash to the ground.

Signs downtown warning pedestrians of falling ice or areas cordoned off to protect passersby are bound to become more common, warns ice and snow consultant Roman Stangl.

"It's something we should be concerned about and it is a problem that we're hearing more and more of with these energy-efficient buildings," said Stangl of the Cambridge, Ont., firm Northern Microclimate, which works with building designers, developers and property managers to mitigate risks.

Energy-efficient glass, new building materials and uniquely angled architectural designs contribute to an increase in the frequency and severity of falling ice, he said.

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Fort Lauderdale Flights + 3 Nights $679
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Soknacki suspects Ford's staff up to election shenanigans

Records request. Rules forbid office employees from engaging in campaign activities during work hours

Coun. Doug Ford's frequent visits to Mayor Rob Ford's office have raised suspicions that campaign activities may be taking place involving the mayor's staff, says a rival candidate's campaign manager.

To find out, the David Soknacki campaign on Tuesday filed a freedom-of-information request for documents relating to the mayor, his chief of staff, communications aide, protocol manager, scheduler and policy adviser.

The aim is to uncover whether any of the mayor's office staff are doing work for the mayor's re-election campaign, said Brian Kelcey, Soknacki's campaign manager.

"This is an unusual case where the mayor's brother is a councillor but he is also the mayor's campaign manager," Kelcey told reporters after filing the request.

"We believe that there's reasonable cause to suspect or at least inquire as to whether there are campaign activities taking place or campaign conversations taking place in the mayor's office," he said.

Ford's spokesperson, Amin Massoudi, said the city's integrity commissioner had indicated the mayor's staff should not work on publicizing the Fords' YouTube show. The mayor's office has agreed.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Restriction

The city says the mayor's office staff at city hall, who are paid from the public purse, can work on Ford's campaign as long as it is outside of their work hours, such as evenings, weekends, or while on vacation or leave of absence.

Aren't vampires impervious to cold?

Twilight heartthrob Robert Pattinson is seen knee-deep in snow Tuesday for the first day of filming back-to-back David Cronenberg movies in Toronto. This time it's Life, co-starring Dane DeHaan (Kill Your Darlings, Metallica Through the Never). Filming continues in Toronto until March 21. Directed by Anton Corbijn (The American), Life is based on the true story of the friendship that developed between actor James Dean (DeHaan) and photojournalist Dennis Stock (Pattinson) as they travelled across America. The film is an Australian, Canadian and German co-production. CENTRAL IMAGE AGENCY/FOR METRO

Council

Final taxi report up for review

On Wednesday, city council will consider the Taxicab Industry Review final report. It contains 40 recommendations, but thanks to taxi-industry lobbying, controversial proposals including shaking up licensing have been sent back for more study. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

LGBT solidarity

Pride flag goes up at Queen's Park

With just five days to go until the end of the Sochi Olympics, the rainbow flag is finally flying at the Ontario legislature. All parties agreed on Feb. 10 to ask the Speaker for permission to fly the flag, but it wasn't granted until the legislative session resumed. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Sure, sure ...

Ford: I am not a homophobe

Mayor Rob Ford said on his online Ford Nation show Tuesday that he's offended by claims he's homophobic, while his brother suggested people in the gay community are "bullies." Ford has objected to flying a rainbow flag at city hall and refused to attend the annual pride parade. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Anti-government protesters clash with riot police in Kyiv's Independence Square in Ukraine on Tuesday, where thousands of police attacked the large opposition camp in Ukraine's capital. EFREM LUKATSKY/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Police, protesters killed in clashes in Ukraine

Kyiv. Officers in riot gear moved against main protest camp as anti-government faction fought back with rocks, bats and firebombs

Amid cries of "Glory to Ukraine!" and with flaming tires lighting up the night sky, thousands of riot police armed with stun grenades and water cannons attacked the protest camp in the centre of Kyiv on Tuesday, following a day of street battles that left 18 people dead and hundreds injured.

The violence was the deadliest in nearly three months of anti-government protests that have paralyzed Ukraine's capital in a struggle over the nation's identity.

With the boom of exploding stun grenades and fireworks nearly drowning out his words at times, opposition leader Vitali Klitschko urged the 20,000 protesters to defend the camp on Independence Square.

As police dismantled some of the barricades on the perimeter of the square and tried to push away the protesters, they fought back with rocks, bats and firebombs.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Canadian connection

A handful of anti-government protesters have taken shelter inside the Canadian embassy.

- Foreign Affairs Minister John Baird's office says they are peaceful and have not caused any damage or harm to staff.

Russia. Members of Pussy Riot defiant after being detained by police in Sochi

Russian punk group Pussy Riot burst onto the Olympic scene Tuesday when two of its members were picked up by police in Sochi — and then ran away defiant down a rain-soaked street a few hours later, shouting and wearing their trademark balaclavas.

The police questioning of Russia's most recognizable punk rockers, along with detentions of activists in recent days, brought political tensions to the fore at Vladimir Putin's showcase Winter Olympics.

Nadezhda Tolokonnikova and Maria Alekhina, along with seven others, were held by police near Sochi's ferry terminal, a popular area for fans celebrating the Games. Police said they were questioned in connection with a theft at a hotel. No charges were filed.

"Putin will teach you how to love the motherland!" the women chanted on leaving the police station, their fists in the air and blue, pink and orange ski masks covering their faces.

Tolokonnikova said Tuesday's detention followed three days of police harassment. She also said the two band members were detained for several hours the previous two days.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Bangkok

Attempt by police to clear protest sites turns deadly

Gun battles broke out Tuesday as hundreds of riot police made their strongest attempt to clear anti-government protest sites around Thailand's capital, leaving at least four people dead and 64 others injured.

Multiple gunshots were heard near the prime minister's offices, where riot police had started to remove protesters and dismantle a makeshift stage. Witnesses said a grenade was thrown at the police and shots were then fired by both sides.

The police withdrew after a series of clashes.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Stalking prey on the savannah? Nope. Jagger the serval cat is on his daily outing in the Regina suburb where he lives. His owners say they're prepared to move out of province to keep their pet, if need be. ALYSSA MCDONALD/METRO IN REGINA

A killer in the family

Jagger the serval cat.
A Regina couple talks about their devotion to an African feline

ALYSSA MCDONALD
Metro in Regina

As Kim Shaheen takes his nightly walk around his suburban Regina neighbourhood, there are lots of smiles, some stares and a few questions.

And they are all focused on the African serval cat on a harness with Shaheen.

For many, the animal — the smallest out of the African cat family — is usually not the first thing that comes to mind when choosing a new pet.

But for Shaheen and his wife, Pam, a couple from Regina with three grown children, it was the perfect way to round out their family.

The 30-pound pet, named Jagger, has four litter boxes, regularly plays fetch in the park behind the house and sleeps in the same bed as the couple.

"It's like having a four-year-old that is never going to grow up," Shaheen told Metro from his living room in northeast Regina. "It's a pet that you get so close to because they are so dependant on you," added Pam.

Visit metronews.ca to watch a video of Jagger in action.

Jagger is so much a part of the family that when the couple found out in November 2012 — roughly seven months after they got the baby animal from a breeder in B.C. — that the province might not allow them to keep him, they started planning a move. "He's got no claws, he's never let out on his own (and) he's fixed so he is not going to change the environment, so I am not quite sure what the issue is," Pam said, adding that the city has no problem with the pet, just the province.

The pair say that serval cats get attached to their owners and once separated, the pet will go so far as to starve itself instead of living without its family. That's why, for the Shaheens, choosing to get Jagger was not a rash decision but rather a 20-year commitment — and even a letter from provincial government officials asking them to voluntarily remove Jagger from the province would not stand in their way.

"(He's) a family member. We can't give him up," said Shaheen, adding that the city was far more accommodating. It was easy to register their exotic cat. "We are his pride ... even when we are not here for a few days, he gets depressed."

"They bond with one family for life," said Pam.

So the couple has embraced living with their larger-than-life pet, taking him to schools and seniors homes for visits and watching him play with the family dog and cat. And not minding when he jumps up on the kitchen counters and costs them roughly $300 a month in "food and whatever he breaks."

Kim Shaheen cuddles his pet serval cat, Jagger. ALYSSA MCDONALD/ FOR METRO

Day 1: Exotic pets in Canada

After two New Brunswick boys were killed last year by an escaped African rock python, we wanted to understand why so many Canadians bring exotic — and sometimes lethal — animals into their homes and lives. What are the costs involved in caring for such critters? How many of these pets are illegal? And what happens when it all goes wrong?

- **Thursday.** Escape the clutch of a Burmese python and hear what the Ikea monkey's former owner has to say about having wild friends.
- **Friday.** Metro goes shopping for an opossum, and explains what to do when you have trouble with your pet fox.

Vern Ruml's 16-foot-long, 200-pound Burmese python named Abu poses with Ruml's girlfriend, Becky Girard. Abu was born in Ruml's home near Winnipeg in 1999. Ruml legally owns a dozen reptiles, and he's concerned about the welfare of animals that are smuggled into Canada. VERN RUML

Why do people buy exotic pets? Some say love, others say ego

ISTOCK

Opposing camps. Folks on either side of the ownership debate weigh in on the point of it all

ALYSSA MCDONALD
Metro in Regina

When exotic pets make headlines, it's usually not for a good reason — generally, the story involves beasts who have escaped, have injured someone or been seized by officials as smugglers try to bring them into the country.

That can lead to a lot of head-shaking. Why, people wonder, does anyone want to obtain such creatures in the first place?

"I think for some people it's the challenge, but number one and foremost, it's for the love of the animal," said Scott Shoemaker, who acts as the director of Responsible Exotic Animal Ownership, a pro-position U.S. lobby group.

Shoemaker owns tigers, African cats and cougars, and said he does it because of the connections he's established with his pets.

"There are a lot of people who buy these animals and they love them," agreed Rob Laidlaw of Zoocheck, an organization that's on the other side of the exotic pet ownership debate. "They swear by what they are doing, are committed to it and defend it, and every once in a while someone gets killed by their pet."

Since exotic animals tend to be so much work, and some are potentially lethal, owners who are not dedicated to such pets tend to get rid of them, which can cause problems if the animals are simply let back into the wild.

Laidlaw said that a variety of influences, including television shows featuring odd creatures, can prompt people to obtain an unusual pet. "People do just buy animals on an impulse. They don't know what they are getting into," said Laidlaw. "They acquire the animal, get attached to the animal right away and end up keeping it." But he also maintains that some people want exotic pets because of the ego boost involved. "I always use the expression, 'Give a nobody a cougar on a leash, they become a somebody,'" he said.

But Shoemaker maintains that's not the reason people end up keeping such pets. "The commitment is 10 to 20 years, especially for a bigger cat. After the first couple of times it poops on your floor, it's no longer cool — it's some work," said Shoemaker.

"(People) may get into it because of that, but they don't stay in it because it's cool."

Quoted

"I always use the expression, 'Give a nobody a cougar on a leash, they become a somebody.'"

Rob Laidlaw of Zoocheck

❋ Buyer beware: Your scaly friend might not get into the country

There's the debate over whether exotic animals are safe to keep as pets — and then, there's the question of whether they're even legal to bring into Canada in the first place.

"We're seeing more traffic of exotic pets," Lyle Saigeon, executive director of the Saskatchewan Ministry of Environment's fish and wildlife branch, told Metro.

"The problem is that the exotic pet trade becomes kind of a global thing. And certainly, a lot of exotic animals are being brought into Saskatchewan, or other places in Canada, (through) online pet stores."

The continuing rapid increase in online pet sales has made purchasing animals foreign to Canada far easier than it used to be.

Saigeon points out that it's "kind of a buyer-beware thing" as to whether the would-be pet is legal to own in Canada, or in any particular province or city — and therefore, whether the snake, lizard, monkey or mongoose can even cross the border in a box or by some other means and reach the purchaser's property.

If the creature is endangered, he said, "the federal government would not let something like that into the country. But if it's coming across in a box, a lot of times it's not caught. And that's certainly the case for a lot of smaller animals."

Vern Ruml, who legally owns a dozen reptiles including a Burmese python, boa constrictors and an alligator snapping turtle at his home near Winnipeg, is concerned about transactions and transport of foreign animals.

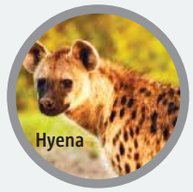
"If they're not allowed, isn't the only way to get them here to smuggle them?" said Ruml, who operated the Ruml's Reptiles educational enterprise in Manitoba until about a decade ago.

"That shouldn't happen. If an animal isn't supposed to be somewhere, it shouldn't be there. Because ultimately, it's the animal that suffers. Not the person." ROSS ROMANIUK/METRO

❋ **If you're uneasy about buying pets online, then you're better off going to a local pet store where it's more likely that the pets for sale are legal in a particular jurisdiction, advises Lyle Saigeon, executive director of the Saskatchewan Ministry of Environment's fish and wildlife branch.**

So, where can't I own a wolverine?

The rules around exotic animal ownership in Canada are mostly a patchwork of provincial and municipal laws. Here are just some of the creatures you can't keep in various jurisdictions across the country.



Pets prohibited in Toronto include:
- Canidae (such as coyotes, wolves, hybrid wolf dogs) except dogs
- Chiroptera (bats such as fruit bats, myotis, flying foxes)
- Felidae (such as tigers, leopards, cougars) except cats
- Hyaenidae (such as hyenas)
- Marsupials (such as kangaroos, opossums, wallabies) except sugar gliders derived from self-sustaining captive populations
- Mustelidae (such as skunks, weasels, otters, badgers) except ferrets
- Primates (such as gorillas, monkeys, lemurs)
- All venomous and poisonous animals

Pets prohibited in Saskatoon include:
- All bats
- All Crocodilians
- All hyenas
- All Arachnids dangerous to humans, except tarantulas of the genera Aphonopelma, Avicularia and Grammostola
- Canidae, except the domestic dog
- All Edentates (such as anteaters, sloths and armadillos)
- All Marsupials (such as kangaroos and opossums)
- Primates (such as gorillas and monkeys)
- All Pinnipeds (such as seals, fur seals and walruses)

Pets prohibited in Nova Scotia include:
- Wild boar
- Prairie dogs
- All Hyaenidae (hyenas)
- All Ursidae (bears)
- All Cervidae (deer)
- All Primates
- All Pteropodidae (bats)
- Canidae, except the domestic dog
- Felidae, except the domestic cat
- All Crocodilians (such as alligators and crocodiles)
- All Procyonidae (such as raccoons, coatis and cacomistles)
- All Viverridae (such as mongooses, civets and genets)
- All venomous animals (including those with toxin removed)

Pets prohibited in Winnipeg include:
- All bears, including polar, grizzly, brown and black bears
- All fur bearing animals of the family Mustelidae, including weasel, badger, skunk, otter, wolverine, except the domestic ferret
- All Procyonidae, including raccoon, kinkajou, cacomistle, cat-bear, panda and coatimundi
- All carnivorous mammals of the family Viverridae, including, but not limited to, civet, mongoose and genet
- Primates, including but not limited to monkey, ape, chimpanzee, gorilla and lemur

ISTOCK PHOTOS

Moving states for hope in marijuana

Over 100 families relocated to Colorado. Unproven relief to epilepsy attracting people as far as Japan

Doctors were out of ideas to help five-year-old Charlotte Figi.

Suffering from a rare genetic disorder, she had as many as 300 grand mal seizures a week, used a wheelchair, went into repeated cardiac arrest and could barely speak.

Two years later, Charlotte is largely seizure-free and able to walk, talk and feed herself after taking oil infused with a special pot strain. Her recovery has inspired the name for the strain of marijuana she takes, bred not to make users high (Charlotte's Web), and an influx of families with seizure-stricken children to Colorado.

Recovery

"She can walk and talk; she ate chili in the car."

Paige Figi, mother of 5-year-old Charlotte, whose frequent epileptic seizures have been reduced with a pot-based remedy.

Doctors warn there is no proof that Charlotte's Web is effective, or even safe.

In the frenzy to find it, there have been reports of bogus strains of Charlotte's Web. "We don't have any peer-reviewed, published literature to support it," Dr. Larry Wolk, the state health department's chief medical officer, said of Charlotte's Web. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Matt Figi hugs his once severely ill young daughter, Charlotte, at a medical marijuana greenhouse in Colorado, on Feb. 7. BRENNAN LISLEY/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Missouri

Pharmacy not dispensing for execution

A U.S. pharmacy will not provide a drug for an execution scheduled for next week in Missouri as part of a settlement with the death-row inmate's attorneys. It's unclear if the deal will avoid the lethal injection.

States that still have the death penalty face the hurdle that major drug makers stopped selling pharmaceuticals for use in executions. Many states, like Missouri, have turned to compounding pharmacies, which make drugs for individual clients.

Under the settlement, The Apothecary Shoppe agreed not to prepare or supply drugs for Taylor's execution. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Pakistan. Ex-president Musharraf appears in court for the first time

Former Pakistani president Pervez Musharraf appeared Tuesday for the first time in front of a court tasked with deciding if he committed high treason, a sharp blow for the country's former strongman.

The appearance is also a blow to the country's military establishment. Pakistan has had three military-led coups since its inception in 1947, the institution and its leaders often perceived as above the law.

The court is to rule on a motion on its jurisdiction before indicting Musharraf. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Musharraf's car in Islamabad, Tuesday. ANJUM NAVEED/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Home brew program helps out alcoholics

The Drug Users Resource Centre in the Downtown Eastside uses innovative ways to reduce harm, including a polka-dotted crack pipe vending machine that made headlines around the world. EMILY JACKSON/METRO

Vancouver. The Drug Users Resource Centre offers a program where severe alcoholics can make home brew

EMILY JACKSON
Metro in Vancouver

Instead of sitting back while illicit drinkers poison themselves with high-alcohol products like Listerine and hand sanitizer, a Vancouver nonprofit decided to help them get away from the products no human is meant to ingest.

The Portland Hotel Society — yes, the same folks that made headlines around the world last week for crack pipe vending machines — offers a program where severe alcoholics can make home brew at its Drug Users Resource Centre located across from Oppenheimer Park, a green space where some of the problem drinkers congregate during the day.

Called the "drinkers lounge," members in the year-old program must attend weekly meetings to be eligible to brew their own booze, said Mark Townsend of the PHS.

If people attend the meetings to discuss health, learn CPR and get help with treatment plans, they can then contribute $10 to buy a brew kit with four others.

"We want there to be a commitment to education and the group to be a positive influence," Townsend said. "We don't want to just randomly hand out stuff."

About 30 people are involved in brewing, with another 60 enrolled just for the meetings.

Outside of the club, the centre has a hydration team that goes out twice a day to places where illicit drinkers hang out to check on them, encourage them to drink water or juice and bring them back to the centre.

It's a pragmatic, self-funded initiative that helps a very small group of people (there's an estimated 200 illicit drinkers) who, if left on the streets to ingest substances like hairspray, often have negative interactions with police or end up in hospital, Townsend said.

While initiatives like this and the crack pipe vending machine tend to grab headlines, they're all part of how the PHS reduces harm in a cost effective way. It also provides detox, banking services and housing.

Parents face murder charges after neglecting son with diabetes: Police

Police say they expect to lay murder charges against the parents of a 15-year-old boy who died from diabetes complications.

Investigators in Calgary said Tuesday that the couple did not provide proper medical treatment for their son. Police allege that the boy was diagnosed with Type 1 diabetes several years ago, when the family lived in British Columbia, and his parents had been taught how to treat him with insulin. When his health declined, investigators say he was confined to his room.

Police were called to a home in Calgary last May and found his body. Staff Sgt. Grant Miller with the homicide unit wouldn't provide details of the boy's condition when he was discovered, but described it as "extreme."

"This boy has suffered from long-term neglect to the point that he was unable to seek medical attention on his own," Miller said. He said tests later revealed the teen died of a bacterial infection stemming from neglect and starvation due to his diabetes.

The parents have seven other children. Most are adults. Miller said there is no evidence they were neglected.

Police planned to release the names later Tuesday, when the parents were to be formally charged before a justice of the peace. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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This time it's not Putin doing the censoring in Sochi

Image control. The International Olympic Committee is strictly enforcing blackout of non-official sponsors

Want to see the glasses and goggles that aerials skier Lydia Lassila and snowboarder Lindsey Jacobellis wore at the Sochi Olympics? If you go to the website of the company that manufactures their eyewear, you might be in for a shock.

On the Australian section of Bolle.com, photos of Lassila, Jacobellis and other competitors at the Sochi Games have been digitally blurred to obscure their faces.

This isn't a throwback to the days when Soviet propaganda chiefs airbrushed people out of photos. It's an extreme application of regulations meant to make sure that companies such as Bollé, which do not sponsor the Olympics, don't get to advertise off the back of them.

So the Olympics are a Pepsi-free zone, because Coca-Cola is an Olympic sponsor. In Sochi's Olympic Park, only Visa cards work for payments or in ATMs, again because Visa is a sponsor. At one Sochi venue, an Olympic worker even slapped a white sticker over the Dell logo on a journalist's laptop, because the computer manufacturer isn't an Olympic sponsor.

For Olympians, the dense and confusing thicket of rules severely restricting advertising is a serious issue.

In theory, Olympians could be disqualified if they use the games to plug non-approved brands. The International Olympic Committee even holds athletes responsible for how their sponsors behave outside the Olympic bubble. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Open to change

During the Sochi Olympics, the athletes can't let their images be used for any commercial advertising. The blackout applies from nine days before the opening ceremony until three days after the closing — from Jan. 30 to Feb. 26.

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Will investors be sweet on Candy Crush Saga?

This screenshot shows Candy Crush Saga. King Digital Entertainment PLC, maker of the maddeningly addictive mobile game, is planning to raise up to $500 million from an initial public offering of its common stock. The company did not disclose how many shares are expected in the IPO or the projected price range. CANDY CRUSH/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE

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PUPPET MASTER PULLS HIS LAST STRING

JUST SAYIN'

Paul Sullivan
metronews.ca

Who's your favourite Muppet?

C'mon, I know you have one. Most people probably go with Miss Piggy, Kermit, Big Bird or Elmo.

Or maybe Bert & Ernie. There's an iconic New Yorker cover from the summer of Bert snuggling with Ernie, watching TV as the U.S. Supreme Court upholds gay marriage.

But I digress.

You can tell a lot about someone from his or her favourite Muppet. If you're a regular reader you're probably not surprised that I favour the wacky fringe Muppets (especially purple fringe), non-specific species such as Cookie Monster, Animal, Gonzo and the Swedish Chef.

And the Yeppers, multi-headed long-necked beasts that only say "Yep." The Yeppers get me every time.

But my favourite Muppet , hands down (pardon the puppet joke), is Sweetums. Sweetums is a nine-foot, hairy ogre with a big red nose and sharp teeth. Of course, like every Muppet, he's completely harmless, except if you're Kermit.

Sweetums is notorious for turning up whenever Kermit's around and announcing: "Sweetums eat frog now!" then giving chase. It's worth noting that in Muppetland, Kermit is still very much alive.

Which sadly, is not the case with Kermit and Sweetums' creator, Jim Henson, who died a tragic early death at 53 in 1990. Now his son John, a frequent Sweetums puppeteer and voice, has died of a heart attack at 48.

Jim Henson's death was particularly bizarre. He thought he had the flu, but very quickly became gravely ill and died of streptococcal toxic shock syndrome. Jim's wife and John's mother Jane died last year, suffering from cancer and paralysis, at 78.

John, who grew up in the family business, is remembered as an artist with an eye for detail, which he inherited from his dad.

It is a sad irony that this family who brought so much joy to the world has experienced so much suffering.

The family business will continue, but with John's death, I wonder if it will continue to be centred in the sly, generous satire that has elevated the Muppets beyond mere foolery. Like Fraggle Rock, which Henson produced in Toronto for a syndicate that included the CBC. Fraggle Rock was populated by a ridiculous sub-species called the Doozers: green, six-inch, dough-like creatures complete with hard hats who tirelessly and mindlessly erected structures that the Fraggles would absent-mindedly break off and snack on, which didn't faze the Doozers, as it kept them gainfully employed. A wonderfully wry and ridiculous commentary on relationships, mindful or otherwise.

The Muppets may be the only show with built-in critics, Statler and Waldorf, two irascible old grouches who sit in the balcony and carp amusingly about the proceedings.

So there's more to the Muppets than the letter A or the number 1. In fact even the number 1 comes with a purple vampire, Count van Count, who "loves to count."

I hope there's a heaven. Of course, if there isn't, the Hensons will just build it and populate it with the marvellous products of their remarkable imaginations. They're that good.

ZOOM

Does this look familiar?

JOE PEPLER/REX

It's really not as high as it looks

What's this, London's under siege from savage-looking marauders? No, silly, it's just The Wall from the hit series Game of Thrones. HBO commissioned artists 3D Joe and Max to recreate the famed 480-kilometres-long and 215-metres-tall wall, in Bishop's Square, to celebrate the release of season three on DVD and Blu-ray. METRO

Get your climbing crampons on

The Wall, protected by the Night's Watch, keeps the evil White Walkers at bay. Londoners are encouraged to "scale" the wall like character Jon Snow. Fans of the U.S.-owned HBO program, who would prefer to stay in the comfort of their own home, haven't got long to wait for season four of the show, which is due to air in early April. METRO

Artists' view

"We knew we had to do something really special to match the sheer scale of this phenomenal TV show that has swept the globe."

Joe Hill, founder of 3D Joe and Max

Clickbait

LUKE SIMCOE
Metro Online

GETTY IMAGES

With news that athletes are using Tinder to hook up in Sochi's Olympic Village, it seems we've reached a peak in dating apps. There are now a host of apps that fuse technology and flirting, letting you find partners based on location, dietary preferences or how many mutual connections you have on LinkedIn. However, if you find yourself bored, give these hookup apps a spin.

Wingman:
Billing itself as Tinder for the mile-high club, this app lets you flirt with your fellow airplane passengers. The app has yet to launch, but it promises to work over Bluetooth, just in case your 3G service conks out at 30,000 feet.

Kimye:
This iPhone dating simulator puts you inside Kanye's leather jogging pants as he tries to woo Kim Kardashian. Options include dropping a new record to get her attention.

Spreadsheets:
If you've ever found yourself exclaiming that your sex life needs more data analysis, then this cleverly-titled app is for you. Using your phone's microphone and accelerometer, the app determines how successful your coital encounter was.

Twitter

@metropicks asked: Russia's panties are in a twist over lacy lingerie trade ban. What type of clothing would you ban?

@igor_mariano: crocs

@Canucklehead_ca: Speedos. Oh, and whatever this is called - the Borat?

@GeeDubayou: UGGs and yoga pants.

@Mystz: anything from the 80's! :-P

@Metro_DK: Skinny jeans with the arse hanging to the ground. #banthem

@EvanDentremont: yoga pants if not actually doing yoga. Likewise for hockey jerseys.

@mtlkeith: 70,s leisure wear. :(((

@CJBondo: I think the real article deserving a ban are the pants sported by the Russian curling team.

@WillyRBeek: anything and everything with the Montreal Canadians logo printed on it.

@sarahhbeichi: cargo shorts, yuck

@ctmwyn: I'd gladly bid farewell to leggings as pants. #BuhByeOversharers

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metro

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Pompeii actioner latest flick to rake over the ancient ashes

Rebirth of Vesuvius. It's the volcanic mount that keeps on erupting, as Resident Evil director offers up his sword-and-sandal take

IN FOCUS
Richard Crouse
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Paul W.S. Anderson's Pompeii burns with love as a slave-turned-gladiator tries to save his girl from eternal preservation. CONTRIBUTED

It's said the people of Pompeii regarded the eruption of Mt. Vesuvius in 79 A.D. with "a response more of curiosity than of alarm." The volcano had burped and belched as many as 50 times over the years, so most of the city's 20,000 citizens didn't pay attention when Vesuvius started to gurgle.

Perhaps they were too busy visiting one of the city's many brothels — like a proto-Las Vegas, this was the richest city of ancient times, ripe with amenities and vice — or enjoying their lunches of broad beans, olives, dormice (plumped up by chefs in terracotta jars) or even garum, made from the first blood of a still-gasping mackerel, to detect the cloud of deadly volcanic ash headed their way.

By the end of the day the dust "poured across the land," claiming 2,000 lives. Buried beneath, "a darkness… like the black of closed and unlighted rooms." The remains of Pompeii and its people were preserved, left untouched for two millennia.

Today the ancient city of Pompeii is one of the most popular attractions in Italy, drawing almost three million tourists annually. But if you can't make it to the Italian region of Campania, a new movie aims to recreate the experience for you.

Pompeii stars Kit Harington, Carrie-Anne Moss, Emily Browning and Kiefer Sutherland in a love story about a slave-turned-gladiator (Harington) who must rescue his beloved, Cassia (Browning), before a rolling mountain of lava and ash dooms her to the ages.

The big action adventure take on the story directed by Resident Evil helmer Paul W.S. Anderson has an ancestor in The Last Days of Pompeii, a 1913 silent sword-and-sandal movie based on the Sir Edward Bulwer-Lytton novel of the same name. That book has been remade eight times.

The most famous version came in 1959. The big budget CinemaScope production was to have been directed by Mario Bonnard, but when he fell ill on the first day of shooting, screenwriter Sergio Leone (who would go on to make classics like The Good, the Bad and the Ugly) stepped in. It's big on pageantry, just as the advertising taglines would suggest. It's a "Fiery Summit of Spectacle," the posters screamed, promising an inside look at, "the City that Lived in Sin and Died in Flame!"

Certainly it's more puffed-up than Up Pompeii, a 1971 Frankie Howerd comedy that featured a speech by emperor Ludicrus Sextus during Vesuvius' eruption.

"I say, Lurcio, how did my speech go?" he asks his servant as the city crumbles.

"Master, you brought the house down!"

Sending up the doom and gloom

"I say, Lurcio, how did my speech go?"

"Master, you brought the house down!"

Conversation between emperor and servant in the 1971 comedy Up Pompeii.

At the studio helm

Production worthy of Goldsworthy

"He's kind of in another realm," Adam Rasmussen says of Tim Goldsworthy. "He's sharp and focused for all the tracking, but at the same time he's cueing up random songs or films that he thinks might be resonating with our performances. He has a way of thinking about the bigger picture and what kind of final touches are going to be necessary for a track. He's brilliant and pretty eccentric." METRO WORLD NEWS

Gardens & Villa ride new wave to Dunes

About three and half hours west of Detroit sits the small town of Benton Harbor. There, in the dead of winter, five Southern California natives and well-known British producer Tim Goldsworthy holed up in a locksmith building-turned-music studio to create Gardens & Villa's new album, Dunes.

After 30 days of recording, during which countless nights were spent watching Chinese cinema and listening to copious amounts of Prince, the group fashioned an album that reveals a significant progression towards a more new wave sound. While Dunes preserves Gardens & Villa's flute, keyboard, and synth-driven melodies, an added electronic vibe thrusts their new album into a realm of organic and nostalgic rhythms.

"A lot of our songs come from jams. We'll get to the space, get inspired by whatever means we find necessary and record these blown-out iPhone recordings that are 12 minutes long," says synth player Adam Rasmussen. "The trick is keeping it pure once you have the ability to start layering stuff."

Since their self-titled debut in 2011, Gardens & Villa has garnered popularity. A popularity that not only carried them into the highly regarded arms of indie label Secretly Canadian, but landed them an opening slot for The Shins and led to their most recent, and otherwise unlikely opportunity to work with Goldsworthy, who is best known for his work with Cut Copy and LCD Soundsystem.

"When we first Skyped with him it was kind of like, 'what the f—! I'm really talking to Tim Goldsworthy right now?'" says Rasmussen of his first meeting with the producer.

After having seen a live video, Goldsworthy was immediately charmed by the band's funky dance music.

"I remember him saying that in a music industry that has become so far weighted to electronic and dance music made by one producer, we were there making the same type of danceable music, but as a band," says Rasmussen. "He was eager to make a band record as opposed to the electronic projects he's been involved with over the years."

METRO WORLD NEWS

SCENE

Sabrina the Teenage Witch star says she was wild at Hart, just never got caught

Melissa Joan Hart ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES

When she was a teen star, Melissa Joan Hart enjoyed a fairly squeaky-clean image, but now she admits it was just easier to hide things back then. "It wasn't that I wasn't a bad girl or that I was too much of a good girl, it was that I never got caught," the former Sabrina, the Teenage Witch star explains to Giuliana Rancic in an interview. For example? The night before her first photo shoot for Maxim magazine, Hart let her hair down in a big way. "You're in underwear, so I was feeling a little shy. I actually ended up rolling with some friends, doing ecstasy and going in a limo to my first Playboy Mansion party," she says. And she also admits that she found then-17-year-old co-star Ryan Reynolds a bit too hard to resist when they filmed the Sabrina, the Teenage Witch TV movie — especially after Reynolds gave her a Bulova watch as a wrap gift. "I chased him down, got in front of his car and just kissed him and then made out with him all night. Then I had to call my boyfriend the next day and explain it," she says.

METRO DISH

OUR TAKE ON THE WORLD OF CELEBRITIES

The Word

Look what the Cat dragged in: Ariana Grande to duet with Chris Brown

MELINDA TAUB
Metro World News

Today in terrible ideas: Pop starlet Ariana Grande is apparently recording a duet with dreadful human Chris Brown. The two teased their fans on Twitter with what appear to be lyrics from an upcoming collaboration:

"i dug a single seed into the ground, I hope it grows"

— Chris Brown (@chrisbrown) Feb. 16, 2014

"in a year or two if you're around, you'll see a rose"

— Ariana Grande (@Ariana-Grande) Feb. 16, 2014

After a fan inquired, Ariana confirmed that it's an upcoming song.

Why anyone would think this could be good for Ariana's career is beyond me. The star of Nickelodeon's Sam & Cat, who has such a squeaky clean image that she regularly wears a bow in her hair without a whiff of irony, should not be anywhere near Rihanna-battering human rage ball Chris Brown. Both for career reasons and for her personal safety.

On the bright side, judging by those lyrics, the song will be very bad, so at least I won't have to feel guilty about wanting to download it.

Twilight star tired of playing fame game

Robert Pattinson

Looks like Shia LaBeouf has some company, as Twilight star Robert Pattinson "doesn't want to be famous anymore," a friend of the actor tells Radar Online. "The cost of fame is the thing he and (ex-girlfriend) Kristen (Stewart) used to complain about all day, that hasn't changed at all for him" since their split. So Pattinson "is looking at a whole new approach to his future and is even considering going to theatre school," the pal claims. "Rob's been talking to a lot of independent filmmakers, and the last thing he wants to do is act in another blockbuster. He would like to direct a movie one day." Because directors, of course, aren't famous.

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KAREN KWAN
life@metronews.ca

Catch a sunset in Barcelona on your whirlwind tour. MOYAN BRENN/FLICKR

With detailed planning and travelling by high-speed train, you can fit in the top sights in Madrid, Barcelona and Paris in less than one week — leaving you with vacation days for another holiday.

Day one

Check into the 19th-century-palace-turned-boutique-hotel Único Madrid, then get your retail fix right in this upscale neighbourhood, Salamanca. At the Museo del Prado, see works from Goya, Velázquez and Rembrandt, then next door, enjoy more than 30,000 plants and flowers at Real Jardín Botanico de Madrid. For dinner, walk from Unico to Oter Epicure (order the melt-in your-mouth Iberico ham).

Day two

Spend a quiet morning at the leafy Parque del Retiro. For a tapas lunch (pimientos de padron and tortilla, anyone?), hit up Mercado de San Miguel. Take the subway to Plaza de Toros de Las Ventas for a self-guided tour of this historic bullfighting ring. Snap some requisite photos in Plaza Mayor, the square at the centre of the city, then tour Palacio Real, where the grand decor and paintings from Giordano, Tiepolo and Velázquez will make you want to live like royalty.

Get your retail fix with shopping in Madrid. MOYAN BRENN/FLICKR

Day three

With your Eurail pass — which connects trains run by national train operators in 27 European countries — go to Atocha station, and take a moment to take in its stunning tropical garden. Hop on a high-speed train (some of which can travel as fast as 355 km/hr) and arrive two and a half hours later in Barcelona. Drop your bags at the modern Hotel Indigo. Stroll pedestrian boulevard La Rambla. When peckish, stop at La Boqueria market for warm mushroom salad and pulpo gallega. Fit in one Gaudi site — Parc Güell if it's nice out or Casa Batlló if the weather is inclement.

Day four

Head to La Sagrada Família early to beat the crowds at this unfinished Gaudi masterpiece. Afterwards, take the metro to Barceloneta. Grab a seafood lunch in this fisherman's quarter, then stroll down Passeig Joan de Borbó and kick back for the rest of the day at Platja de la Barceloneta.

Day five

Board a Paris-bound high-speed train with your Eurail pass and arrive six and a half hours later. Check into the conveniently located Millenium Hotel Paris Opéra. Grab a bite at Café Diane in the pretty Tuileries Garden, then with a list of your must-see pieces of art in hand, make a quick visit to the Louvre.

Day six

A quick stop by the Eiffel Tower is a must, non? Afterwards, if it's Wednesday or Sunday, pick up delicious provisions at nearby Marché du Pont de l'Alma. From here, take a Bateau Mouche ride for a fantastic view of the city. Next, walk the crooked narrow streets in Le Marais and stumble upon historic buildings, including the beautiful Place des Vosges. At night, a drink in the buzzy Saint-Germain-des-Près neighbourhood at Les Deux Magots or Café de Flore will complete your quickie trip.

More info

To plan your trip or get more information on the Eurail Pass, visit eurail.com.

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Take a walk on the wizard side

Universal Orlando. Theme park gets set to launch attractions guaranteed to make muggles happy

DEAN LISK
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What's old is new — or at least re-imagined — again at Universal Orlando Resort in Florida. Many of the park's attractions are getting pop-culture injections and technological facelifts to keep up with visitors' expectations to be amazed, entertained and, of course, well fed.

Central to the park's changes is the recent unveiling of Diagon Alley, the secret London side street only accessible to the wizarding world in Harry Potter. Even muggles — humans without special powers, for anyone not familiar with the world of Potter — can soon shop where Hogwarts students purchase their school supplies.

Mark Woodbury, vice-president of Universal Creative, gave the Toronto Star and Metro Canada an exclusive Canadian sneak peek behind the closely guarded security fence of the still-under-construction attraction, which opens this summer.

Created by author J.K. Rowling, Diagon Alley is a hidden road in modern London open only to wizards. The tilting buildings in the alley are the setting of some of the most exciting scenes in the Potter series.

"When people come in they are going to have a first impression of something that is totally mind-boggling," said Woodbury.

Still emerging from the sand-covered ground, punctuated by scaffolding, concrete and wiring, is a scaled-down London, complete with Kings Cross and Charing Cross railway stations, Leicester Square and Wyndham's Theatre. Park guests will walk through one of the city's brick walls and into the magical alley — the details of how are a secret.

Inside the park, visitors will eat at the Leaky Cauldron, visit Ollivanders Wand Shop or buy a novelty item at the Weasleys' Wizard Wheezes. At the far end of the alley is the goblin-operated Gringotts Wizarding Bank; a large fire-breathing dragon will be perched on the roof of the building.

It will also be home to Universal Orlando's newest ride, Harry Potter and the Escape from Gringotts. "It really brings to life the movie," Woodbury said.

Diagon Alley is the second Harry Potter-related experience at Universal's Orlando parks. In 2010, it opened The Wizarding World of Harry Potter, located in Islands of Adventure, which welcomes visitors to Hogwarts castle and the Scottish mountain village of Hogsmeade.

Park guests will soon be shuttled between the two sites onboard the Hogwarts Express. Leaving King's Cross Station, the train will travel along an elevated track through the concrete buildings and paved roads of the anything-but-Potter-like Universal backlot before arriving at the gate of Hogsmeade. Information about the length, time and cost of the trip are as safely guarded as the recipe for butterbeer, a popular drink at The Wizarding World.

Woodbury said special technology, details of which were not part of the announcement, will make passengers think they are travelling through the hedged English countryside and rugged Scottish hills when they look out the train's windows. "Physically it is in the park, but the experience is truly in another place," he said. "It is a dramatic experience."

A spell of change is also being cast at The Wizarding World. Woodbury says Zonko's Joke Shop in Hogsmeade will be incorporated into the soon-to-open Weasleys' Wizard Wheezes in Diagon, giving room for the neighbouring Honeydukes — a sweet shop — to expand.

The Potter plans are just the latest in a series of updates to Universal's two parks. When it opened in 1999, the Amazing Adventures of Spider-Man broke new ground with dark-ride tricks and motion simulation. To keep a rider's Spidey sense tingling, it underwent a hi-def redo two years ago.

Over in Springfield (state unknown) U.S.A., resort chef Steven Jayson, who helped bring butterbeer to the masses, has developed a menu of food inspired by the Simpsons TV series. Park visitors can saddle up next to Barney at Moe's Tavern for a Flaming Moe or Duff beer or enjoy a burger at Krusty Burger. Chicken and waffles are a popular choice at Cleatus' Chicken Shack, while Lard Lad Donuts offers pie-sized doughnuts topped in pink icing.

Online

For more information, visit universalorlando.com.

Visit **telus.com/travel** for more details.

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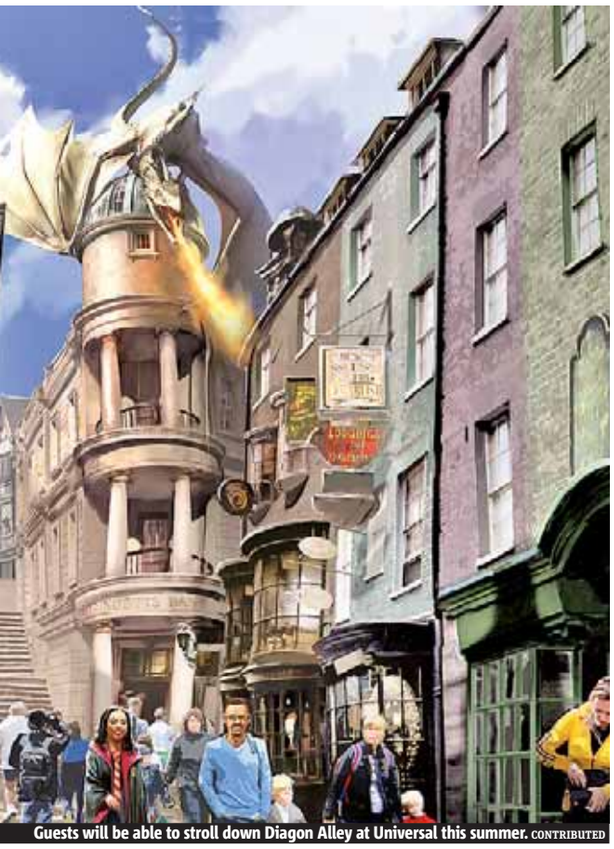
Guests will be able to stroll down Diagon Alley at Universal this summer. CONTRIBUTED

A Cabana to call home. New resort a nostalgic riff on the family road trip

Fun for the whole family awaits at the Cabana Bay Beach Resort. CONTRIBUTED

Universal Orlando is recreating the classic family road trip with its newest hotel complex, the Cabana Bay Beach Resort. Located steps from the park, the design was inspired by mid-century hotels such as those in the Wildwood, N.J., historic resort district.

The property

The north end of the property is slated to open March 31, and features 600 rooms that are spread over three open-corridor buildings, each named after an iconic hotel: the Starlight, Castaway and Thunderbird.

The pool area

The three buildings surround a 10,000-square-foot pool, with a dive tower-inspired fountain, 17 cabanas and the Atomic Tonic pool bar. The south end of the hotel will feature 1,200 rooms in two seven-story towers with a similar-sized pool area between them

Entertainment

A ramp leads from the pool areas of both wings into the upper floor of the main building — avoiding the lobby altogether — where guests will find a fitness centre, games room, bowling alley and cafeteria-style eating at Bayliner Diner.

Family friendly

The rooms are designed with families in mind. A sliding wall separates the two-bed sleeping area from a small sitting area, complete with a queen size pullout. The bathroom is separated into a toilet, shower and sink area, so multiple family members can get ready at once. The suites also come with a small kitchenette with microwave and fridge.

Cabana Bay Beach Resort will open this summer. A standard room will rent for roughly $119 US a night, and the suites for $174 US.

METRO

Bucket List

The Mangroves at San Blas, Mexico

Once a prominent Pacific port, this small fishing town of 10,000 between Mazatlan and Puerto Vallarta is home to 30 km of beaches, winding estuaries, mangrove swamps and one of the most important natural bird shelters in the Western Hemisphere. In La Tovara National Park, you can find more than 300 different species of birds — pelicans, terns, egrets, blue heron, the works — not to mention ocelots and quite a few crocodiles. A boat tour through the watery maze of vegetation and wildlife will remind you of every prison escape movie ever made. San Blas is also home to the Riviera Nayarit region's unsung hero of Mexican cuisine, chef Betty Vázquez from El Delfin Restaurant.

DOUG WALLACE/METRO

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Learn about Canada's black history this month

Heritage sites. There's a lot to be gleaned from booking a tour at these historic locations

ON THE MOVE
Loren Christie
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Black History Month is a time to learn about and celebrate the achievements of people of African descent in Canada and around the world. I chatted with Rosemary Sadlier, the president of the Ontario Black History Society, about Canada's most important black heritage sites.

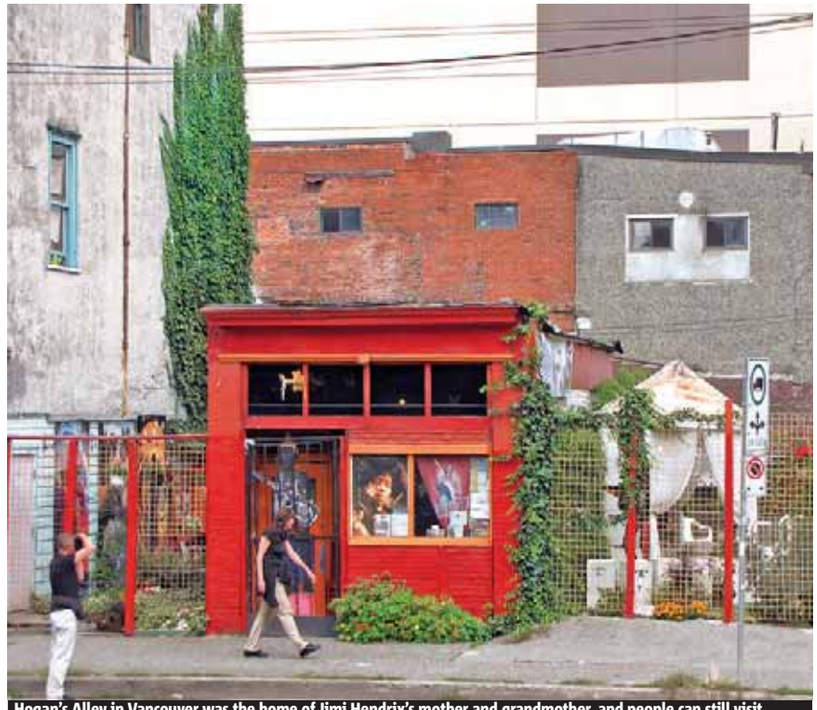
Why is Black History Month important?
We still do not have a required black history curriculum for students and there remain issues with inclusion and diversity that can best be addressed by knowledge and awareness.

Where should people visit to learn more?
Africville was a black community in Halifax begun perhaps as early as following the War of 1812, and torn apart by city officials for the development of the area. The last home was torn down by 1970 and there remains no development, only a cairn dedicated to the memory of the families that had lived there for generations. A National Historic Site since 1996, it is located next to the base of Halifax's MacKay Bridge. The Black Cultural Centre in Dartmouth, Nova Scotia, is a wonderful site to visit for more information on Nova Scotia's Black history.

Hogan's Alley was a Vancouver community founded by blacks invited into the area around the time of the gold rush and was a bustling business and cultural area. Jimi Hendrix's mother and grandmother lived in this area. It was mostly destroyed by development but people can still visit the Jimi Hendrix shrine, located on the corner of Union and Main. The shrine is housed in a restaurant that was run by Jimi's grandmother.

The southwestern part of Ontario is also rich in black history and I would suggest the North American Black Historical Museum in Amherstburg, since it was one of the first museums to come into being. Near Windsor, Ont., this site is connected to a historic black church and is near Fort Malden.

Are there tours you can take to learn more?
Much African Canadian history has been lost due to many factors including urbanization. We have a Discover Black History in Toronto tour that has been taken by tourists, students and others in order to learn, to see the areas, to better understand the history that they could not readily be aware of. It can be arranged by contacting the Ontario Black History Society.



Hogan's Alley in Vancouver was the home of Jimi Hendrix's mother and grandmother, and people can still visit the Jimi Hendrix shrine there. LACAFFERATA/FLICKR

Meghan Agosta-Marciano, Two-time Olympic Gold Medallist, Hampton Inn Jericho - Westbury

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There's snow trip like a solo trip

Winter weekend. Tired of hearing about group tours and couples vacays to the tropics? It's me time

ELIZABETH BEDDALL
elizabeth.beddall@metronews.ca

Cobble Beach is located just north of Owen Sound, Ont. CONTRIBUTED

A hissing fire, a glass of Merlot and the worst of a winter storm devolving into howls as it sweeps the windows of a country getaway. Your gaze turns lovingly towards the softly cushioned seat beside you and you notice that it's empty. This is no surprise. You're on a me-cation, and tonight is about you, yourself, and… well, you.

There's been a ferocity to this Canadian winter that has seemed out of the norm. And while taking off to a foreign land to drink in all that lovely Vitamin D sounds wonderful, not all of us can budget the Carribean-bound cash between our amped up gas bills and bulk purchases of replacement mittens.

What I'm hearing you say is that you could use some time away. So why not take a short drive to a quiet location just outside your city this winter, with the goal of spending a solo weekend enjoying decadent spa treatments, exquisite local cuisine and a bed so joyously empty you could do seven rollovers on the duvet before tumbling off? (I may have tried it.) No need to book off time from work and no, you will not be sharing the welcoming chocolate on that pillow, thank you very much.

My recommendation for a not-so-far-away me-cation nook? The Inn and Cottages at Cobble Beach, located in the Township of Georgian Bluffs just north of Owen Sound, Ont., and offering both the solo and the accompanied traveller a handful of excellent options for zoning out in the middle of sub-zero temperatures.

Choose from 10 boutique-style inn suites and five two-bedroom cottages, then make the most of the Nantucket-style clubhouse's full service spa (the slimming mud wrap complete with mini facial propelled me into a trance-like state of relaxation) and award-winning restaurant with seasonal and local offerings by executive chef Tim Johnston (don't leave without trying the wild boar tenderloin).

Don't like the idea of being completely cooped up? Enjoy the unfiltered silence that comes with a snowshoe and cross-country ski trek along the stunning property's 18 kilometres of groomed trails, or make a trip out to nearby Coffin Ridge Boutique Winery for a sensational wine sipping.

Sure, this particular vacation venue may be best known for its golfing grounds, but here's a little secret — many resorts like Cobble offer the cozy, the quaint and the totally self-indulgent through the winter as well, often at lower prices.

So for single, overworked, free-this-weekend city dwellers like me, or those who just need a little bit of moi-time this winter, do take a moment to show the most important person in your life some love by booking a me-cation. That pooped, pasty, penniless person in the mirror will thank you.

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- **Address.** 221 McLeese Dr., Kemble, Ont.
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Havana nods to its glitzy gangster past

Capri Hotel. The place where Mafiosi rested their weary heads gets a facelift for tourists

The Capri Hotel has been restored to its former glory. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

In its heyday, Havana's Capri hotel and casino was the playground of men known as The Blade and The Fat Butcher. It was also a pleasure garden for headline stars who portrayed Mafiosi on the silver screen: George Raft, known for hoodlum roles such as Guino Rinaldo in 1932's Scarface, was the casino's celebrity "greeter" and made his home in the 19th-floor penthouse.

Havana's hedonistic mob-and-movie-star days came to an end with Fidel Castro's 1959 revolution, and the hotel drifted into a long, slow decline. But now the Capri is back in business after being closed more than a decade ago. Its rebirth is part of Cuba's latest bid to trade on its colourful pre-Communist past and attract tourist dollars to fund its socialist present.

"It's a feeling of that era (at the Capri). I think in Cuba you feel that in general," said Roberto Escalante, a 62-year-old Mexican university professor who was staying in the hotel this month during an academic conference. "It's very comfortable. It's missing some services still, but yes, you feel like you're back in those times — which were good!" Indeed, details such as the Capri's polished, art-deco granite floors with their flowery bronze inlays fit right into a city that still teems with finned Chevrolet and Cadillac classics. So do the graceful copper-colored lobby chandeliers, which like the floors are restored originals.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Deal

March break planning

Air Transat has a new booking tool called Affinity, where you select your interests (beach, diving, sailing, spa, golf, etc.), what hotel and room amenities are absolute deal-breakers and where you want to go. Results filter down, down, down as you plug in the data. Quick and painless. Visit airtransat.ca and look for Affinity under Packages/Tours.

DOUG WALLACE/METRO

Trend

Soap recycling

Here's something to think about the next time you scoop hotel shampoos into your suitcase. Florida-based charity Clean the World collects and recycles hotel amenities discarded by the hospitality industry, sending them to homeless shelters and countries in need. Learn how you can help at cleantheworld.com.

DOUG WALLACE/METRO

How-to

Organize your suitcase

1. Gather up old shoe bags and pack one with gadget adapters, one for underwear, one for socks, etc. 2. When you arrive at your hotel, just take these bags out of your suitcase and put them directly in drawers. There's no need to unpack each one. 3. This makes for both a fast unpack — and an even faster re-pack.

DOUG WALLACE/METRO

An education on earning a couple of bucks

School of hard jobs?

No gruelling gig required when all you need is little extra cash for campus life

SHAHEERAH KAYANI
TalentEgg.ca

As a secret shopper you can make up to $10-25 per job for your time and even get free snacks, meals or movie tickets while you're at it. ISTOCK

Let's face it — as a student, it's easy to feel broke. Between paying for tuition, textbooks, transit, rent and meals, there is often not much left for other things like entertainment and some good old fun. Many students hold the usual part-time jobs, but even that may not be earning you as much money as you'd like.

Here are some easy and quick ways that students can make some extra money.

If you can find some time in your busy schedule as a student and be a bit creative, you can find ways to make a little additional cash on the side. Even if it isn't a lot, as a student, a little can certainly go a long way.

School contests

Be sure to check out various contests being held at your college or university because most of them offer cash, gift cards or other prizes. For example, at Toronto's Humber College, students can win cash just for sending in a short video of themselves. Does your school offer something similar? Find out.

Write for the school newspaper

If you have a passion for writing and reporting school events, then writing for the school newspaper is an excellent way to make some money on the side. Some school newspapers also offer prizes to students just for sending in their submissions, whether it's an opinion piece, some artwork or even a poem. Contributing content not only helps you earn, it may also help you grow a professional network. You can also try out other freelance work such as photography or web design.

Be a website tester

Many companies pay people just to come and test their websites before they are launched or to offer feedback that's used to tweak and improve the sites. Testers are tasked with navigating the website at hand, while a "screen and audio recorder" takes note of your clicks, keyboard strokes and personal comments as you test the website for 15 minutes. For each website tested, you can earn approximately $10. Don't worry, your actual face is not recorded — there is no webcam.

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Where in the world am I gonna get my degree?

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ELIAS DA SILVA-POWELL
TalentEgg.ca

For Melanie Murchison, a learning experience abroad led to a hunger for more.

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While studying law at the University of Winnipeg, she enrolled in a course called Sites of the Ancient World, which involved a three-week trip to Greece.

"I've always wanted to travel and after getting my first opportunity I knew I wanted to do more of it," Melanie says. "It seemed like the best idea was to combine wanting to travel with getting more education."

She chose to complete a PhD in Law at Queen's University Belfast — and says she couldn't be enjoying herself more.

"I wouldn't change my decision to live abroad for a minute and I think it's absolutely something everyone should experience."

Getting started

There are a lot of destinations where you can study abroad, so Melanie focused on identifying the most suitable candidates. "Since I don't speak any second languages, I knew I would need to do my schooling in an English-speaking country," she says.

When it came to choosing a destination, inside information came in handy — many of Melanie's family members had visited or lived in the U.K.

Melanie Murchison will finish her degree abroad in August 2015.
CONTRIBUTED

She turned her attention to researching programs in her field. "After communicating with potential supervisors, I wound up applying to three universities," Melanie explains. "After being accepted, I researched the financial aspects of the degree more thoroughly and had to decide where I thought I'd get the best supervision and support."

She travelled to Queen's University Belfast in September 2012.

Settling in

One of the most important details after choosing where you want to study is deciding on your accommodations — they play a big part in your daily routine.

Once overseas, Melanie faced the challenge of settling into her new home, having opted to live in a new postgraduate university residence on campus. "I wanted to be able to meet other international students and make friends with people in a similar position to me," she explains.

After a few months at Queen's University Belfast, she realized that this wasn't the right fit.

"I had been living on my own for three years previously, and I missed the independence and freedom that living on your own offers," she explains. Soon thereafter, she moved into an apartment and began a new routine.

"You need to trust your instincts," she says. "If you think something isn't quite right, ask someone or get clarification, but also trust in yourself."

The right fit

Melanie admits that she suffered a little homesickness at first, but kept this at bay by fostering a cat and keeping in touch with family and friends online. She also benefitted from some familiar two-legged company.

"After finishing the first year of my PhD, my best friend from Canada flew over to Europe and we backpacked together through six countries for four weeks," she says.

"It was something we had both wanted to do but I never thought we'd be able to do it together. It was amazing."

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Mom, dad, meet my new career

Labour of love. Five steps to giving your heart away to that sweet profession

SHANNON MANDEL
TalentEgg.ca

Finding a job is a lot like finding a romantic partner. It's often challenging to find someone you'll be happy with, much like it's challenging to find a satisfying job. Conveniently, the same methods can be effective in helping you achieve both. Here's a list of five steps to help you find true love — in a partner or a job.

Turn to your friends and family

"I know a guy/girl who would be great for you. What do you say, will you let me set you two up? Come on, you know you want to."

Sometimes, your friends and family know you even better than your know yourself. It may be a good idea to seriously consider their suggestions.

They may know someone who would really jive with your sense of humour. Or they may have insight into a job that would really highlight your skills, even if you yourself are not aware that you possess those skills.

Before your friends can let you know about a job or dating opportunity, they need to know that you're looking, so be sure to let your social network know that you're on the lookout for a new job.

Know the difference between love and lust

Lust is finding a prospective date on a website, and falling for their pictures without much regard for their profile. Lust is also being attracted to a job posting with a fancy title, without giving much consideration to the job description.

Looks aren't everything. If you stick to the surface, don't be surprised if it turns out that the date or job wasn't the greatest match for you.

Do you share any common interests with your date? Are you excited about a company's culture and values? These are the factors that count. Dig deep to find out if you're compatible.

Perfection isn't all it's cracked up to be

"I'm really picky."

Everyone has deal-breakers, traits or factors that they simply can not be happy with. You shouldn't settle, but if you're too picky, you might end up passing up great opportunities. Flexibility is an important part of all healthy relationships and job searches. If you think you've found perfection, you're in for a rude awakening someday.

Make a list of your deal-breakers, and give careful thought as to why they are on that list. Though your list will be highly individual, it's a good idea to share it with a trusted friend. Discussing and reflecting might lead you to realize that some things are not as important to you as you initially thought.

Don't put all your eggs in one basket; diversify your search

You're never going to find your soulmate if you keep looking in the same bar week after week.

You might find him or her there, but you increase your chances of finding a better match sooner if you look in several different places.

There are many ways to find your soulmate: through a friend, at an event, on a dating website, or through social media are among the most popular. Likewise, friends, networking events, career websites such as TalentEgg.ca and social media conversations are all effective ways of securing a job you'll love.

When you're conducting searches, be both broad and specific. Look for jobs on general job search websites and those targeted to your desired career.

Of course, don't forget to frequently check TalentEgg.ca for student and recent grad opportunities.

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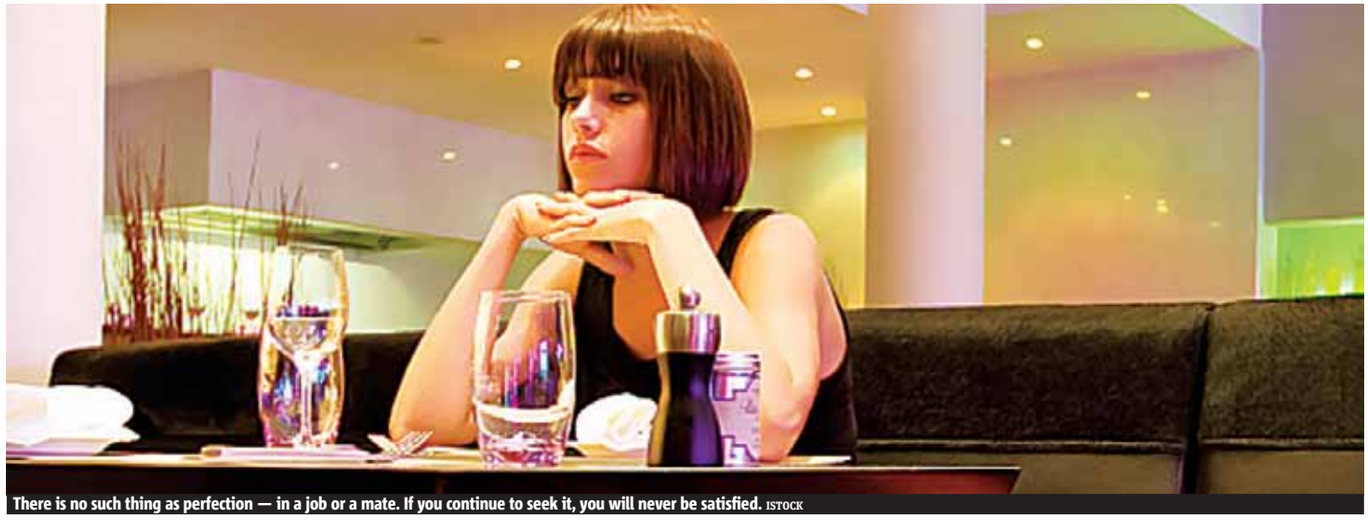
Let love grow

What if you've found a partner or job, but you're not sure that they're the "one" for you?

- Sometimes, "like" can grow into "love." Take your time before concluding that a romantic partner or job isn't right for you. Before throwing in the towel, communicate with your partner or employer — express what you need from them to feel more fulfilled. Do you need more support? More challenges? They just might listen to you and work with your needs. Now that's a sure sign of a relationship worth saving.
- Finding a job you love, like finding a partner, involves effort and planning. Enlist your friends, dig deep to discover true compatibility, be flexible, leave no stone unturned and put in an effort to turn "like" into "love."



There is no such thing as perfection — in a job or a mate. If you continue to seek it, you will never be satisfied. ISTOCK

You don't need an oven for layers of comfort-food perfection

Slow-Cooked Lasagna. Prep this before you leave for work and come home to a delicious meal that just needs a salad

DINNER EXPRESS
Emily Richards
food@metronews.ca

Let your slow cooker do the work and come home to this easy, heartwarming Simple Slow-Cooked Lasagna.

Swap in other greens or cooked vegetables to change things up.

This recipe makes eight servings. HEALTH CANADA

Ingredients

- 227 g (8 oz) extra lean ground beef
- 1 onion, finely chopped
- 3 cloves garlic, minced
- 10 ml (2 tsp) dried oregano
- 1 ml (1/4 tsp) hot pepper flakes
- 1 jar (700 ml) tomato passata
- 250 ml (1 cup) water
- 1 tub (475 g) 1 % cottage or light ricotta cheese
- 1 pkg (142 g/5 oz) baby spinach, chopped
- 60 ml (1/4 cup) chopped fresh basil or parsley
- 30 ml (2 tbsp) grated Parmesan cheese
- 10 whole wheat or regular lasagna noodles
- 125 ml (1/2 cup) shredded part skim mozzarella

This recipe works best in an oval- or rectangle-shaped slow cooker. If you're using a round slow cooker, you may need to break up the lasagna sheets a bit more.

1. Lightly spray inside of slow cooker with cooking spray.

2. In nonstick skillet, brown beef, breaking up with spoon. Scrape out beef into a colander and let drain. Wipe out skillet and return to medium heat; cook beef, onion, garlic, oregano and hot pepper flakes 5 minutes or until softened. Add passata and water and remove from heat.

3. In a bowl, stir together ricotta cheese, spinach, basil and Parmesan cheese.

4. Spread some of the meat sauce over bottom of slow cooker. Lay lasagna noodles in a single layer, breaking as necessary to fit. Top with one quarter of the sauce and one third of the cheese mixture. Repeat layers twice ending with meat sauce on top. Cover and cook on Low for 6 to 8 hours or on High for 3 to 4 hours. About 15 minutes before serving lasagna, sprinkle mozzarella over top, cover and let cook on Low until melted.

Cooking tips

- Run out of fresh basil or parsley? For the fresh basil, sub in 15 ml (1 tbsp) dried basil and for the fresh parsley sub in 30 ml (2 tbsp) dried parsley.
- Swap in lean ground turkey for the ground beef.
- Leftovers make lunch a snap. Add a green salad to round out your meal.

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Snowstorm no match for Riddle's twists

Ski halfpipe. Alberta freestyle skier conquers challenging conditions to win silver medal in Olympic debut of competition

A big blast of winter weather finally arrived at the Sochi Games on Tuesday night, dumping a big helping of thick snow just in time for the Olympic debut of the men's ski halfpipe competition.

The challenging conditions didn't faze Canada's Mike Riddle at all. The veteran freestyle skier stuck with his plan to unveil a new combination for his final run and it helped him win a silver medal.

"I managed to link together some tricks that I haven't done before," Riddle said. "I couldn't be happier with the result."

Riddle hit back-to-back double cork 1260's for the first time — three and-a-half rotations with two twists per trick — and it was enough to wow the judges at Rosa Khutor Extreme Park. The rest of his run was clean and it earned him a score of 90.60 points.

"Just to be here is unbelievable and then to get a medal — I'm speechless," he said.

American David Wise took the gold with a total of 92.00 and Kevin Rolland of France won bronze with 88.60 points. Calgary's Noah Bowman finished fifth while Justin Dorey of Vernon, B.C., missed jumps in both his final runs and ended up 12th.

Riddle won a world title in 2011 and took the overall World Cup crown last season.

"I did have more in the arsenal that I wanted to bring out but conditions made it kind of impossible to maintain speed," he said.

Riddle had reached the top 10 in his last 12 competitions entering the Games. He was sixth after a mediocre first run.

"You had to land really high on the transitions to be able to maintain speed for your next trick in order to link together your run," he said. "So if you weren't perfect, you were done, basically. Every trick had to be pretty much perfect."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Remembering Sarah Burke

Ski halfpipe was making its Olympic debut thanks in part to the efforts of Canada's Sarah Burke, who died in a training accident in 2012.

- "This Olympics for me is definitely bittersweet," Mike Riddle said. "It's awesome to be here but I know that she should be here too. She's been on my mind a lot this week."

Mike Riddle of Canada performs a trick in the men's ski halfpipe competition on Tuesday in Sochi, Russia.
MIKE EHRMANN/GETTY IMAGES

Canadians find silver lining on short track

Canadians Marianne St-Gelais, from left, Valérie Maltais, Jessica Hewitt and Marie-Ève Drolet won the silver medal in the women's 3,000-metre short track speedskating relay on Tuesday in Sochi. RICHARD LAUTENS/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

It was a bittersweet day for Canada's Olympic short-track speedskating team.

Gold-medal hopeful Charles Hamelin crashed out of the 500-metre heats on Tuesday, but within the hour Canada's women's 3,000-metre relay team won a silver medal.

"We feel great. We are really happy to have got the silver medal," said speedskater Jessica Hewitt. "I have never been on an (Olympic) podium before and we have worked very hard for this."

South Korea won gold in the women's relay with a time of four minutes 9.498 seconds, followed closely by China. However, the Chinese were disqualified because their skaters did not immediately leave the track after passing off to their teammates.

That bumped the Canadian team of Marie-Ève Drolet, Hewitt, Valérie Maltais and Marianne St-Gelais up from third place. Canada's final time was 4:10.641.

"We tried a different strategy here; making the exchange on different corners, so it got a little messy at times but we did well and then it just so happened that China were disqualified so we got the silver," said Hewitt. "We tried to put our best foot forward and to be there at the end of the race."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

4 SPORTS

‘We just need one more than the other team’

Style points don’t count. Canada still adjusting to big ice, but winning still bottom line

Sidney Crosby talks with Canada’s starting goalie, Carey Price, during practice on Tuesday in Sochi. Asked about Olympic pressure Tuesday, Price replied: “I live inside a bubble anyway. I don’t get into too much about what anybody has to say, really.” NATHAN DENETTE/THE CANADIAN PRESS

No matter which forwards Team Canada dresses for its quarter-final, they’ve combined to score well over 300 goals in the NHL this season.

No team in Sochi features that kind of depth, and yet one concern going into Wednesday’s game against Latvia is a lack of offence up front. As this becomes a single-elimination tournament, Canada doesn’t need 300 goals.

“We just need one more than the other team,” Babcock said.

Getting that one big, important goal could make or break Canada moving forward. As the game against Finland showed, offence can be tough to come by on the international ice, especially against well-structured European opponents.

Finding a way to get to the middle of the ice and closer to the net was a major emphasis in practice Tuesday and could be the difference between reaching the semifinals and going home early.

“You watch our games and we’ve been on the outside a lot,” said winger Corey Perry, who will have a new linemate in Jamie Benn between him and Ryan Getzlaf. “To get shots to the net, to get second opportunities, that’s what the three of us are going to do.”

For all the talk about the big ice in advance of Sochi, it has made a difference — but not the way some figured.

Just because there’s more space doesn’t necessarily mean there’s more room to get creative offensively.

The Canadians scored six goals against Austria after scoring three in the opener against Norway, but it was against Finland where they learned a lesson. Holding onto the puck in the offensive zone paved the way for plenty of shots, but it was like a basketball team trying to shoot just from the outside. With a rink that’s 15 feet wider, it’s much more difficult to get quality scoring chances.

“You’re a long ways from the net when you’re hanging out on the wall,” said Jeff Carter. “We talked about that and maybe trying to shrink the ice a little bit ... just kind of make it feel more like an NHL-size rink.” THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Hockey

Women’s game safe IIHF’s Fasel assures

Amid concerns about competitive imbalance between Canada and the U.S. and the rest of the countries involved, IIHF president Rene Fasel guaranteed Tuesday women’s hockey would not be taken out of the Olympics.

It came after NHL commissioner Gary Bettman said he would be “distressed” to see that happen.

“That will never happen,” Fasel said. “I can guarantee that will never happen.” THE CANADIAN PRESS

MEDALS

Nation	G	S	B	Tot.
Netherlands	6	6	8	20
United States of America	6	4	10	20
Russian Federation	5	8	6	19
Norway	7	4	7	18
Canada	**4**	**9**	**4**	**17**

WHAT CANADA DID

TUESDAY

ALPINE SKIING

Women’s Giant Slalom - Erin Mielzynski, Guelph, Ont., finished 21st with a time of two minutes 40.69 seconds, 3.82 seconds out of first, after coming in 20th in the opening run and 18th in the final run. Marie-Michele Gagnon (Lac-Etchemin, Que.) and Marie-Pier Prefontaine (St-Sauveur, Que.) did not finish their opening run.

BIATHLON

Men’s 15 km Mass Start - Brendan Green, Hay River, N.W.T., 9th, (43 minutes, 38.3 seconds, +1:09.2); Jean-Philippe Le Guellec, Shannon, Que., 10th, (43:41.6); Nathan Smith, Calgary, DNF.

BOBSLEIGH

Women’s - Kaillie Humphries (Calgary) and Heather Moyse (Summerside. P.E.I.), are second overall after two runs with a time of one minute 55.12 seconds, 0.23 of a second out of first. Jennifer Ciochetti (Edmonton) and Chelsea Valois (Zenon Park, Sask.) are 13th (1:57.06). Heats 3 and 4 take place on Feb. 19.

FREESTYLE SKIING

Men’s Ski Halfpipe - Mike Riddle (Sherwood Park, Alta.) won the **silver medal** with a second run score of 90.60, 1.40 points out of gold. Noah Bowman (Calgary) was fifth overall (82.60) while Justin Dorey (Vernon, B.C.), who was first in the qualifying round, fell in both final runs and ended up 12th (20.40).

SHORT TRACK

Men’s 500 m - Charle Cournoyer, Boucherville, Que., (41.18) and Olivier Jean, Lachenaie, Que., (41.616) both won their heats and advanced to the quarter-finals on Friday. Defending Olympic champion Charles Hamelin, Montreal, (1:18.871) fell and finished fourth in his heat and failed to advance.

Ladies’ 1000 m - Valerie Maltais, La Baie, Que., (1:28.771) and Marie-Eve Drolet, Chicoutimi, Que., (1:31.273) both advanced to the quarter-finals on Friday, finishing their heats first and second respectively. Marianne St-Gelais, St-Felicien (2:05.206) did not qualify for the quarter-final.

Ladies’ 3000 m Relay - Canada moved up to the **silver medal** position after China was disqualified. Marie-Eve Drolet (Chicoutimi, Que.), Jessica Hewitt (Kamloops, B.C.), Valerie Maltais (La Baie, Que.), Marianne St-Gelais (St-Felicien, Que.) finished with a time of four minutes, 10.641 seconds, 1.143 seconds out of gold.

SNOWBOARD

Men’s Snowboard Cross - Kevin Hill (Vernon. B.C.) did not finish his semifinal race and placed 8th overall. Christopher Robanske (Calgary) was disqualified in his quarter-final race and finished 17th overall. Jake Holden (Caledon, Ont.) did not advance in his qualifying heat, while Robert Fagan (Cranbrook, B.C.) was disqualified from his. Both finished tied for 25th overall.

CURLING

All Times Eastern

MEN

Country	W	L
x-Sweden	8	1
x-Canada	**7**	**2**
x-China	7	2
x-Britain	5	4
Norway	5	4
Denmark	4	5
Russia	3	6
Switzerland	3	6
United States	2	7
Germany	1	8

x — qualifies for playoffs

Tuesday’s result

TIEBREAKER

Britain 6 Norway 5

Wednesday’s games

SEMIFINALS

Sweden vs. Britain, 10 a.m.

Canada vs. China, 10 a.m.

WOMEN

Country	W	L
x-Canada	**9**	**0**
x-Sweden	7	2
x-Britain	5	4
x-Switzerland	5	4
Japan	4	5
China	4	5
Denmark	4	5
South Korea	3	6
Russia	3	6
United States	1	8

x — qualifies for playoffs

Monday’s results

Britain 9 Russia 6

South Korea 11 United States 2

Japan 8 China 5

Switzerland 10 China 6

Denmark 8 Britain 7

Canada 9 South Korea 4

Sweden 8 Japan 4

Wednesday’s games

SEMIFINALS

Canada vs. Britain, 5 a.m.

Sweden vs. Switzerland, 5 a.m.

HOCKEY

PRELIMINARY ROUND

All times Eastern

MEN

Group A

	GP	W	OTW	OTL	L	GF	GA	Pts
U.S,	3	2	0	0	0	15	4	8
Russia	3	1	0	0	0	8	5	6
Slovenia	3	1	0	0	2	6	11	3
Slovakia	3	0	0	0	2	2	11	1

Group B

Canada	**3**	**2**	**1**	**0**	**0**	**11**	**2**	**8**
Finland	3	2	0	1	0	15	7	7
Austria	3	1	0	0	2	7	15	3
Norway	3	0	0	0	3	3	12	0

Group C

Sweden	3	3	0	0	0	10	5	9
Switzerland	3	2	0	0	1	2	1	6
Czech Rep.	3	1	0	0	2	6	7	3
Latvia	3	0	0	0	3	5	10	0

Note: Three points awarded for a regulation win, two for an overtime/shootout win and one for an overtime/shootout loss.

Tuesday, Feb. 18

QUALIFICATION PLAYOFF ROUND

Slovenia 4 Austria 0

Russia 4 Norway 0

Czech Republic 5 Slovakia 3

Latvia 3 Switzerland 1

Wednesday’s games

QUARTERFINALS

Slovenia at Sweden, 3 a.m.

Russia at Finland, 7:30 a.m.

Latvia at **Canada**, 12 p.m.

Czech Republic at United States, 12 p.m.

Friday’s games

SEMIFINALS

TBAA at TBAH, 7 a.m.

TBAA at TBAH, 12 p.m.

Saturday’s games

BRONZE MEDAL GAME

TBAA at TBAH, 10 a.m.

Sunday’s games

GOLD MEDAL GAME

TBAA at TBAH, 7 a.m.

WOMEN

Tuesday’s results

SEVENTH PLACE GAME

Germany 3 Japan 2

FIFTH PLACE GAME

Finland 4 Russia 0

Thursday’s games

BRONZE MEDAL GAME

Switzerland at Sweden, 7 a.m.

GOLD MEDAL GAME

Canada at United States, 12 p.m.

Jays' Man of Steel finds his kryptonite

MLB Spring Training.
Star shortstop feels stronger following ankle injury recovery

Jose Reyes reported to Blue Jays camp two days early, donning a Superman T-shirt, a wide grin and an optimistic attitude on what he expects will be a much improved season.

The four-time all-star shortstop spent much of the morning Tuesday working out and joking with teammates in the clubhouse.

"We're very excited about this year, because last year was a tough year for me and for the whole team," Reyes said. "This year, I feel like I'm 100 per cent and back to normal. I just can't wait to go to the field and do what I do best, and help this ballclub get where we need to get."

Toronto Blue Jays shortstop Jose Reyes.
TOM SZCZERBOWSKI/GETTY IMAGES

The speedy Reyes was limited to just 92 games last season because of a broken ankle.

Hurt in April, he says the injury continued to nag him after he returned from the disabled list in June.

But with more time to rehab, Reyes says his ankle has gotten "way better."

"I feel like this off-season, I was able to move how I wanted to," Reyes said. "Last year, it was kind of tough for me. Running the bases, going from first to second."

Reyes said he is eager to turn the page on the past two years, which he described as the hardest of his major-league career.

Reyes was shipped to Toronto along with pitchers Josh Johnson and Mark Buehrle as part of an off-season purge in late 2012 by Miami to dump salary.

Picked by many to be playoff contenders, the Blue Jays were crippled by injuries and poor starting pitching and finished 74-88, last in the AL East in 2013.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Driving the lane in D.C.

Toronto Raptors centre Jonas Valanciunas of Lithuania defends as Wizards Bradley Beal scores during the first half Tuesday's NBA game in Washington. The Raptors won 103-93. MANUEL CENETA/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NBA

Bennett poised after all-star snub

The NBA all-star weekend is the unofficial halfway mark of the NBA season and to say Anthony Bennett's rookie campaign hasn't gone quite as expected so far would be an understatement.

The 20-year-old rookie from Toronto, the first Canadian ever selected with the first overall pick in the NBA draft when Cleveland grabbed him in 2013, has had anything but a storybook beginning to his professional career.

Bennett was just the second No. 1 pick to not be selected for the annual NBA all-star weekend's Rising Stars game since Washington's Kwame Brown in 2001. Bennett is patient when asked about his struggles, after starting his professional career 0-for-15 from the floor.

"Well, it's not the way I planned it to go, I can say that," Bennett said. "I'm pretty sure everything will turn around soon."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Starting From Price for 2014 Dodge Dart Aero shown: $21,690.§

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Starting From Price for 2014 Dodge Journey R/T AWD shown: $32,390.§

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Honda hit hybrid high in 2014

PHOTOS: WHEELBASEMEDIA.COM

Review. The last time Honda made a hybrid as impressive as the Accord it was over a decade ago with the original Insight

MALCOLM GUNN
wheelbasemedia.com

When a new hybrid sedan is called for, it appears that Honda is finally prepared to step up and deliver.

But instead of just one version of the Accord, there are two to consider: the Accord Plug-In that might possibly come to Canada (it's now available stateside); and another with less battery juice that you don't plug in.

Both hybrids can operate on battery or gasoline power independently or together in combination. It's the type of system commonly used in the Toyota Camry, Ford Fusion and Hyundai Sonata/Kia Optima duo.

Up to now for Honda, the electric motor operated only in tandem with the gas engine (referred to as a partial or mild hybrid). That makes for good, but not exactly leading-edge fuel economy, and Honda has come up short in challenging Toyota and others for its rightful share of the expanding hybrid market. Until now, that is (see factbox).

The secret to the Accord Hybrid is what Honda calls its Intelligent Multi-Mode Drive, or i-MMD. The system consists of two electric motors that are serviced by a lithium-ion battery pack plus a 141-horsepower 2.0-litre four-cylinder engine. One 166-horsepower electric motor serves as the Accord's primary powerplant and principally drives the front wheels, while the other motor acts as a fixed-ratio direct-drive continuously variable transmission (referred to by Honda as an e-CVT).

The gasoline engine functions exclusively as a generator for much of the time (sort of like the Chevrolet Volt) by supplying power to the drive motor as well as helping to recharge the batteries. But at cruising speeds above 70 km-h, it seamlessly connects to drive the front wheels, with or without electric-motor assist, depending on the load (accelerating and or heading uphill). In these instances, the system's 195 net total horsepower and 226 pound-feet of torque come into play.

The reason the Accord's city fuel economy is so impressive is that at speeds below 70 km-h, and under light-load conditions, only the electric drive motor is functioning to power the front wheels, or while the batteries have sufficient juice.

The entire drivetrain is cradled in a weight-saving all-aluminum sub-frame that replaces the steel and aluminum one installed in regular Accords. Additionally, an aluminum rear bumper beam replaces the steel version. The weight savings help partially offset the battery pack that's packaged behind the rear seat and reduces trunk space by about 25 per cent.

Accord Hybrid pricing begins at $31,300, including destination charges for the base model, which includes a wide assortment of content. The Touring trim level adds forward collision and lane departure warning safety systems, moonroof and a premium sound package along with LED headlights, adaptive cruise control (which keeps you following at a safe distance) and a navigation system.

Without question Honda has become a technological leader in gasoline-electric propulsion. Whether the company can trade on the Accord's already rousing success and convert new buyers would seem to be a foregone conclusion. Why? It's the hybrid that everyone knew Honda could build.

2014 Honda Accord Hybrid

- **Type.** Four-door, front-wheel-drive mid-size sedan
- **Engines (hp)** 2.0-litre DOHC I4 (141) and a 166-horsepower electric motor (195, net)
- **Transmissions.** Continuously variable
- **Base price (incl. destination).** $31,300

Design

Visually, the Accord Hybrid lacks the different nose that has been assigned to its Plug In counterpart, but it does feature a blue-accented grille, headlights and running lights, plus unique 17-inch wheels. Also, a trunk spoiler and special lower body panel improve vehicle aerodynamics (to help reduce fuel consumption)

Fuel economy

Honda claims it has leapfrogged the pack with a class-leading 3.7 l/100 km in the city and 4.0 on the highway. The top-selling Toyota Camry hybrid is rated at 4.5/4.9 and the Ford Fusion at 4.0/4.1. The Accord also beats out both the Hyundai Sonata and Kia Optima hybrid models that are rated at 5.4/4.9.

Compare

1 Ford Fusion hybrid
Base price: $30,400

2 Toyota Camry hybrid
Base price: $29,500

DRIVE

Heavy-duty trucks built to be invincible

Driving Force. GM, Ford and Chrysler are sole trio to sell half-ton-plus beasts and their capabilities don't go unnoticed

JIL MCINTOSH
Drive@metronews.ca

If you have a big job to do, chances are you'll need a big truck. Heavy-duty pickup trucks usually look similar to their lighter-duty siblings, but they're built to handle more stress.

"The difference is in their capability," says Jeff Luke, executive chief engineer for General Motors' full- and mid-size trucks. "Everything is up-sized and stronger."

Pickup trucks are designated by their payload capacity, which is the combined weight of passengers and cargo they can carry, measured in tons. A light-duty truck, which is badged as a 1500 or 150 depending on the manufacturer, is popularly called a half-ton.

Heavy-duty trucks are rated in three-quarter-ton (badged as 2500 or 250), and in one-ton (3500 or 350).

These "ton" names are actually out of date, and modern trucks can handle much more—GM's new one-ton can carry more than three times that much. They were introduced back when trucks had far less capacity, and a half-ton could only carry 1,000 lbs., but the names have stuck. Buyers should look at the actual specifications for each truck to determine what they need.

Building a heavy-duty truck starts with the frame. While it's basically the same overall dimension as on a half-ton truck, the sections are thicker to handle heavier loads. The axles are larger, the shocks are stronger, and the tires are built to take more weight. Some trucks have dual rear wheels, which spreads the load across four tires and allows for even more capacity.

Heavy-duty trucks will offer diesel engines, which provide the highest amount of torque—the low-end pulling power needed to move heavy loads or big trailers. The transmission and rear end have to be strong enough to handle the engine's power as well.

When the engine is working hard, keeping it cool is an issue. "The radiator will be larger and heavier, and there will be more coolant," Luke says. "These engines may have more oil in them, and there will be coolers for the oil and transmission fluid."

There are larger openings in the bumper area so air can easily flow over the oil and transmission coolers, which look like miniature radiators. If these fluids aren't kept cool, it can lead to premature wear or even component failure in the engine or transmission.

The down side is that because these trucks are heavier than a half-ton truck, they also get poorer fuel economy. "That's just physics, so we try to offset it with aerodynamics," Luke says. "On this new truck, the air deflector shape is taken from the Corvette so that air travels around it. Every little bit helps."

To note

- **Titanic trio.** Currently, only GM, Ford and Chrysler make heavy-duty trucks. The largest Japanese pickup truck available is a half-ton.
- **Be prepared.** Any vehicle that regularly tows a trailer should be equipped with a transmission fluid cooler to avoid premature wear or damage.
- **Ratings.** Trucks are rated on how much they can carry, and how much they can tow with a trailer hitch and with a fifth-wheel hitch, which attaches in the bed.

This GMC can carry more, the axels are larger and the shocks are stronger.

However, the down side is they weigh over a half ton and fuel economy isn't great. But this is the price people pay and accept with heavy-duty trucks. BOTH PROVIDED

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Old C-Class a commendable used luxury ride

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C-Class

JUSTIN
PRITCHARD
drive@metronews.ca

The latest generation C-Class entered the market for model-year 2008 with new styling, more power and technology.

The entry-level Mercedes sedan in North America, standard models initially offered a range of V6 engines with no less than 201 horsepower, and up to 300-plus horsepower, depending on the model selected. Look for automatic transmissions and available All Wheel Drive, as designated by the '4Matic' badge. Rear wheel drive was standard.

Later in this model's life, a coupe variant joined the lineup, as did a 1.8 litre turbocharged four-cylinder base engine. Feature content included premium audio, push-button start, climate-controlled leather seats, xenon lights, navigation, Bluetooth and plenty more. Key competitors included the Lexus IS, BMW 3 Series and Audi A4.

Test drive

Start your test drive noting the condition of the C-Class's tires and brakes, as some owners have reported premature wear of these components. Sit with the vehicle in 'PARK' and turn the steering wheel fully from one side to the other, quickly, a few times. Any 'knocking' sound from beneath the vehicle in the process could be the result of a faulty or worn-out bushing in the steering system. Not a major issue, but one that should be addressed. Hard shifting or check-engine lights are likely caused by faulty sensors, though they could indicate transmission or engine trouble. In any case, be sure to have a mechanic 'scan' the mode's computer brain to investigate any issues or warning lights or messages. Though largely inconsequential, numerous owners have reported issues with the newer 7-speed automatic transmission—meaning that the older and more proven 5-speed unit may be a better choice if you're not opting for extended powertrain warranty coverage. Trouble signs in a model with the 7-speed automatic may include jerky shifting, especially at speed or just after overtaking another vehicle at full throttle. Test-drivers are advised to be sure they confirm proper operation from the stereo system and Bluetooth system, as well as all power seat adjustments, door locks, windows and the sunroof.

PHOTO: TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

What owners like

Owners report stable handling, an opulent cabin, a great up-level stereo system and even good fuel mileage—especially with the 7-speed automatic that was added mid-cycle. Easy-to-use technology and styling rounded out the package.

What owners dislike

Complaints include noisy power seat adjustment, sometimes-noisy brakes, limited rear-seat headroom for taller passengers and the awkward placement of some of the controls around the steering wheel.

The verdict

The majority of owners of this generation of C-Class report minor issues, if any at all. A healthy, properly-maintained unit free of trouble signs, or one from a Certified Pre Owned program with extra warranty, should deliver plenty of worry-free luxury driving.

*Limited time 2.9% semi-monthly lease offered through Toyota Financial Services on approved credit to qualified retail customers on all new 2014 Corolla models. First semi-monthly payment due at lease inception and next semi-monthly payment due approximately 15 days later and semi-monthly thereafter throughout the term. Toyota Financial Services will waive the final semi-monthly payment. Semi-monthly lease offers not open to employees of Toyota Canada, Toyota Financial Services or TMMC/TMMC Vehicle Purchase Plan. Some conditions apply. See your Toyota dealer for complete details. Example (applies across Canada except Quebec): 2014 Corolla CE 6M with a vehicle price of $16,415 (includes $1,100 Toyota Canada Lease Assist, which is deducted from the negotiated selling price after taxes, and $1,520 freight/PDI) leased at 2.9% over 60 months with $0 down payment equals 120 semi-monthly payments of $89 with a cost of borrowing of $1,735.85 and a total obligation of $12,369.05. $0 security deposit and first semi-monthly payment due at lease inception. Price and total obligation exclude license, insurance, registration, fees and taxes. 100,000 km allowance for 60 months, with ability to purchase additional kilometres at $0.05/km at time of lease inception, and a charge of $0.07/km for excess kilometres. Dealer may lease for less. †Toyota semi-monthly lease program available on 48 month and 60 month terms. Toyota semi-monthly lease program based on 24 payments per year, on a 60-month lease, equals 120 payments, with the final 120th payment waived by Toyota Financial Services. Competitive bi-weekly lease programs based on 26 payments per year, on a 60-month lease, equals 130 payments.

New Rogue more premium, less mundane

Nissan. New version of old model looks better inside and out and will challenge the compact SUV big boys in the Canadian market

MIKE GOETZ
Drive@metronews.ca

The new 2014 Nissan Rogue is better than its predecessor and will compete more in the compact SUV market in Canada. NISSAN

Nissan did an admirable job in making its new-generation Rogue compact crossover both an engaging and value-liscious proposition. This was revealed after a recent fling in the new Rogue in and around Quebec's winter wonderland, which is the Mont Tremblant region.

New Muscular Look

Rogue is one of the first North American vehicles based on a new joint Nissan-Renault engineering protocol called Common Module Family (CMF). CMF is a not "platform" in the traditional sense, but more a way of engineering vehicles along "big module" lines. A big module would be something like an engine bay, cockpit, front underbody, rear underbody, electrical/electronic systems, etc. This, in turn, allows more sharing of global components, as components are already engineered to fit and work within these big modules. With the move to CMF, Rogue is about the same length as the outgoing model, but quite a bit wider, and because wheels are pushed more to the corners, more voluminous inside. So it looks bigger but actually isn't… Accentuating the more aggressive stance is the more aggressive exterior design, featuring pronounced wheel arches, "squarer" body shape, and the latest version of the Nissan family face complete with LED daytime running lights.

Cabin Comforts

But the update to the interior is even more dramatic. Gone is the no-frills feel and all-black colour treatment of the last model. This interior is about as "premium" as you will find in this compact crossover segment, with great seats, lots of soft-touch and two-tone materials, and available panoramic roof and 7-inch central display screen, which is your gateway to such technology as rearview and 360-degree monitor, NissanConnect Apps, and voice command for navigation and hands-free text messaging. The rear tailgate is now made of composite plastic (to save weight), and has a power close and open option. A Divide and Hide Cargo system is standard, which allows two tiers of storage possibilities.

2014 Nissan Rogue

- **Type.** Five-door, front-wheel or AWD compact crossover
- **Engine (hp).** 2.4-lite DOHC I4 (170)
- **Mileage.** L/100 km (city/highway) 7.9/6.0 FWD; 8.2/6.2 AWD
- **Base Price.** $23,498 FWD; $25,498 AWD

Hitting the Road

The 170-hp 2.4-litre "four" is carryover, but now hooked up to the newer-version CVT. Front-wheel-drive Rogues are estimated to have a fuel efficiency rating of 6.0 l/100 km on the highway, which is impressive in its class and an 18 per cent improvement over the last model. Rogue does a lot with the basics, including optimizing airflow under the vehicle with various underbody covers — including a spoiler for the muffler! Like all CVTs, this one produced that disconnect that drivers feel when engine audibles don't quite match to how fast the vehicle is accelerating. But Rogue is quiet — so you can easily tune out all powertrains noises right out of your pretty little head. I found the new handling and safety technologies — Active Engine Braking, Active Trace Control and Active Ride Control — to unobtrusively and effectively aid the Rogue's overall road manners, which is already much improved over the previous model.

Concluding Remarks

There are a lot of great vehicles in the class; Ford Escape, Honda CR-V and Toyota RAV4, to name a few. Those three in particular have left the previous Rogue in the dust, sales wise. The new 2014 Rogue will not be so easy to shake off. This is already selling well since its debut last year, and look for it to rise several ranks in the hearts and minds of Canadian compact SUV buyers.

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Hammound's latest design has him on cloud nine

Chrysler 200. Ontario native has struck gold twice in the cut-throat, highly competitive world of designing cars

AUTO PILOT
Mike Goetz
drive@metronews.ca

A side view of the slick Chrysler 200. COURTESY OF CHRYSLER

Canadian car designer Jeff Hammound and his 'baby,' the Chrysler 200. PROVIDED

You think the Olympics are competitive? Try designing vehicles for a living.

First you got to get a job as a designer at a major automaker. It's a tight job market. There are more professional basketball players in the NBA than there are professional cars designers in the entire world. If you're lucky and good enough to get that gig, you're still not home free.

At Chrysler there can be as many as 15-plus exterior designers working on the same project, hoping to have their work carried to the next stage, says Jeff Hammound during our interview session at the Toronto auto show. "They never say you are the next designer of the car. Everybody sketches. Everybody puts designs on the wall."

But this Chrysler designer, a native of Guelph, Ontario, struck gold twice. One of his designs became the 2011 Jeep Grand Cherokee, and just recently, his work came to life in the form of the all-new 2014 Chrysler 200.

Not only was he the lead exterior designer of the 200, but during the design process he was promoted to design manager, to oversee all the vehicle's exterior design matters right through to production. "That was unusual. It doesn't always happen that way. It gave me a lot of ownership of the design. I obviously had a lot of help from upper management … But it really feels like my baby."

You don't run into car designers on the street everyday, especially Canadian ones, so Hammound agreed to quick Q&A about his profession.…

Typical day at the office?
"If we're sketching, you sketch all day long. A lot of us like to sketch after hours … If the vehicle is "in clay" you'll spend your day on floor, tapping lines, etc. You're in rough clothes because you get covered in clay. It's fun though. Then you're working with engineers and going to a lot of meetings."

Hardest part of the job?
"The time you spend trying to hold your design. That's the hardest part. That it stays true to its original design, through cost constraints, manufacturing constraints, engineering constraints. You really have to learn to balance your emotions. You need to learn to take criticism and not take it so personally, but you don't want to take the personal element out of it either, because it's the passion that makes a design successful."

Best advice to a car designer wanna-be?
"Definitely look at going to one of the more prestigious (design) schools, because you'll get exposure to the auto industry. The car companies come in and say, we like you, you and you. (Hammound went to Detroit's College for Creative Studies). Besides that, you really have to be passionate. It's very competitive and you'll be putting in long hours."

Dream assignment?
"As most designers would say — a super car. Few restrictions and more about what can you do to make it as ostentatious as possible. The proportions are also wide and long — makes for a really nice canvas."

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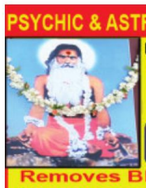

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Horoscopes

♈ Aries
March 21 - April 20
You will receive advice from all directions today, making it difficult to work out who is talking sense. Maybe you should shut yourself away for an hour or two and come to your own conclusions.

♉ Taurus
April 21 - May 21
You would be wise to keep your cash in your pocket today because if you make one wrong move, you may have to make several more to cover it up and before you know what's happening it will be costing you a fortune.

♊ Gemini
May 22 - June 21
It will pay you to keep a low profile and wait for the effects of today's Mercury-Saturn alignment to pass. That applies to all areas of your life but especially to your work.

♋ Cancer
June 22 - July 23
You may want to give voice to your feelings today but is that really such a good idea? The planets warn you won't do your cause much good if you let your resentments out for everyone to see.

♌ Leo
July 24 - Aug. 23
Steer clear of people who seem to enjoy talking about their worries. It may make them feel good to feel bad but it will spoil what might otherwise be a marvelous day.

♍ Virgo
Aug. 24 - Sept. 23
Someone who is jealous of your popularity will make life tough for you today but they are unlikely to succeed. Let the negativity go over your head. It'll annoy them. Good.

♎ Libra
Sept. 24 - Oct. 23
You will have to tell a little white lie today, the kind that keeps a friend from getting into serious trouble. A few days from now, when they realize what you did, they will thank you profusely.

♏ Scorpio
Oct. 24 - Nov. 22
Avoid quick fixes and dubious schemes today because they will cost you money. Anyone who approaches you with any of those once-in-a-lifetime, just-can't-lose proposals must be shown the door.

♐ Sagittarius
Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
You must control your temper today. That may be easier said than done but it must be done or what starts as a minor dispute could quickly get out of hand. Avoid people who like to fight.

♑ Capricorn
Dec. 22 - Jan. 20
If you make a promise today you will have to keep, so think carefully before making a commitment. With Mercury, planet of communication, under lots of pressure you should keep your mouth shut.

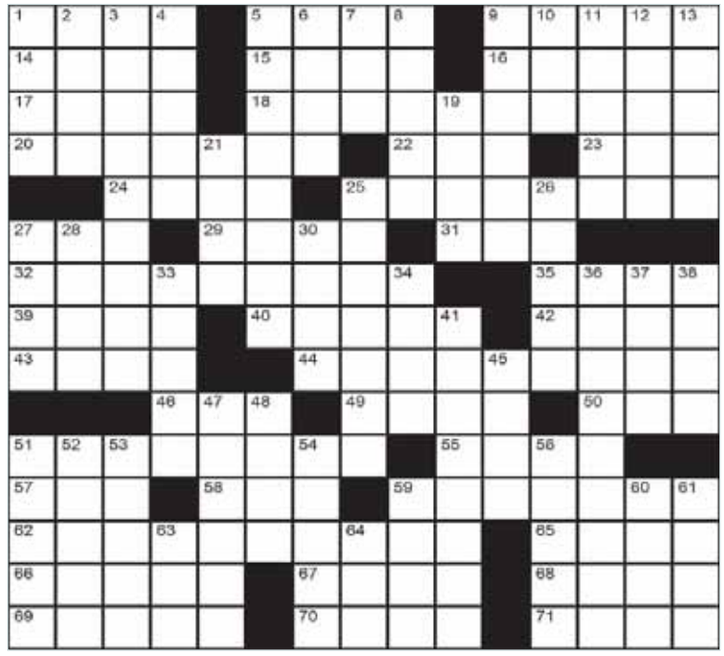
♒ Aquarius
Jan. 21 - Feb. 19
What you are worrying about is not worth the time. A few days from now, you will look back and wonder how you could have gotten so worked up about something so trivial.

♓ Pisces
Feb. 20 - March 20
The Sun is moving through your sign and you're feeling on top of the world but today's Mercury-Saturn link could dampen your mood with negative news. SALLY BROMPTON

Crossword: Canada Across and Down

See today's answers at metronews.ca/answers.

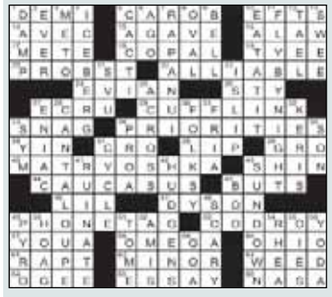
BY KELLY ANN BUCHANAN



Across
1. Estonia's Lake __
5. By-the-tracks structures, for short
9. Floral leaf
14. Owl's call
15. Wholly Part link: 2 wds.
16. Disney dog
17. Wanes
18. SOCHI 2014 - Biathlon competition: 2 wds.
20. Error
22. Verdi aria: "__ Tu"
23. Extremist org. in 1974 headlines
24. Tunesmith Lisa
25. Nunavut: Sylvia __ Territorial Park
27. Fib
29. Mr. Matsuhisa (Celebrity chef)
31. Canuck rock gr.
32. Moscow: One of the vivid architectural features of Saint Basil's Cathedral: 2 wds.
35. Spinning stats
39. Kabul, __.
40. Part of Fred Flintstone's roar!
42. Old Rome's 1052
43. Qatar's capital
44. Maggie Gyllenhaal's actor husband Peter
46. Arctic explorer John
49. Misplace
50. Ms. West
51. SOCHI 2014 - Snowboard event, __ Giant Slalom
55. Keen on
57. Tokyo, formally
58. Ms. Zadora
59. Not for
62. Canadian painter of The Jack Pine: 2 wds.
65. Sarah McLachlan song
66. SOCHI 2014 - Adler __ Skating Center
67. Labourer, in olde Anglo-Saxon times
68. Rock 'n' What?
69. Canadian furniture store since 1909
70. Origin
71. Carpenter and Fire

Down
1. "Pardon me..."
2. Quebecoise singer, Alys __ (b.1923 - d.2011)
3. SOCHI 2014 - Winter Olympics sport
4. John Lennon's "__ __ Hard"
5. 1984 Bryan Adams tune
6. Jaunt
7. Veto
8. Curl the lips
9. SOCHI 2014 - Cross-Country event, Team __
10. 'Client' completer
11. Legume
12. In the least: 2 wds.
13. Devoted
19. Smidgen
21. Memphis, __.
25. Candy machine product: 2 wds.
26. "Candle in the Wind" subject, __ Jean
27. Cargo
28. Lowdown
30. Feathery scarves
33. Canadian actress Catherine
34. River of Spain
36. Luc __ (French Canadian lyricist of the musical Notre-Dame de Paris)
37. Ms. Sorvino
38. "West __ Story" (1961)
41. Designated
45. Ms. Rowlands
47. First Greek letters
48. Director Mr. Petri
51. Flower's one-of-some
52. Love lots
53. Shakespeare role
54. Designer chairs surname
56. Accessory for Queen Elizabeth
59. Excellent
60. Sediment
61. Mr. Bachman's
63. Cable TV network Spike, formerly
64. NNW u-turn

Yesterday's Crossword



Sudoku

How to play
Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved.

		4				5		
		1	6		3	7		
8				4				6
	2	8	3		5	4	1	
	3	6	8		7	2	9	
1				9				4
		9	7		8	1		
		7				6		

Yesterday's Sudoku

7	9	2	4	5	1	8	3	6
8	3	5	2	6	7	9	1	4
1	6	4	3	8	9	5	2	7
6	4	8	1	2	5	3	7	9
9	5	1	7	3	8	6	4	2
2	7	3	9	4	6	1	5	8
3	8	7	6	1	4	2	9	5
5	2	9	8	7	3	4	6	1
4	1	6	5	9	2	7	8	3

Today
3°/-6°
Rain or snow showers
40%

Thursday
3°/-2°
Rain or snow showers
40%

Your #1 weather forecast now available in HD.
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kia.ca >

15TH ANNIVERSARY SALE

THROWBACK PRICING≠

PAYMENTS LIKE THEY WERE 15 YEARS AGO

"BEST ECONOMY CAR"

MOTORING 2014

Forte SX shown△

THE ALL-NEW 2014 FORTE

hwy / city 100km^ 5.3L/8.0L

THROWBACK PRICING

WAS ~~$98~~

$78≠ BI-WEEKLY for the first **15 MONTHS.**

0%≠ financing

Includes Variable Throwback Pricing Incentive. $78 bi-weekly payments include the $640 Throwback Pricing Incentive. Payments are based on 2014 Forte LX MT (F0541E), financing for 84 months. After 15 months, bi-weekly payments increase to $98. Throwback Pricing Incentive may be taken as a lump sum or to reduce the financed amount.≠

reddot design award winner 2013

7 PASSENGER SEATING AVAILABLE

Rondo EX Luxury shown△

THE ALL-NEW 2014 RONDO

hwy / city 100km^ 6.2L/9.4L

THROWBACK PRICING

WAS ~~$128~~

$88≠ BI-WEEKLY for the first **15 MONTHS.**

0%≠ financing

Includes Variable Throwback Pricing Incentive. $88 bi-weekly payments include $1,280 Throwback Pricing Incentive. Payments are based on 2014 Rondo LX MT (RN551E), financing for 84 months. Offer includes $750 loan credit[1]. After 15 months, bi-weekly payments increase to $128. Throwback Pricing Incentive may be taken as a lump sum or to reduce financed amount.≠

AVAILABLE ALL-WHEEL DRIVE

Sportage SX Luxury shown△

THE NEW 2014 SPORTAGE

hwy / city 100km^ 7.0L/10.0L

THROWBACK PRICING

WAS ~~$146~~

$99≠ BI-WEEKLY for the first **15 MONTHS.**

1.49%≠ financing

Includes Variable Throwback Pricing Incentive. $99 bi-weekly payments include $1,504 Throwback Pricing Incentive. Payments are based on 2014 Sportage LX MT FWD (SP551E), financing for 84 months. After 15 months, bi-weekly payments increase to $146. Throwback Pricing Incentive may be taken as a lump sum or to reduce financed amount.≠

OFFER ENDS FEBRUARY 28TH

5 Year Warranty*

WE'VE GOT YOU COVERED
*5-year/100,000 km worry-free comprehensive warranty.

Proud Partner of madd
Saving Lives, Supporting Victims

Kia's new Customer Friendly Pricing includes delivery and destination fees, dealer admin. fee up to $399 and all mandatory government levies. Prices do not include licensing or applicable taxes.

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KIA
The Power to Surprise

Offer(s) available on select new 2013/2014 models through participating dealers to qualified retail customers who take delivery by February 28, 2014. Dealers may sell or lease for less. Some conditions apply. See dealer for complete details. Vehicles shown may include optional accessories and upgrades available at extra cost. All offers are subject to change without notice. All pricing includes delivery and destination fees up to $1,665, $34 OMVIC fee, environmental fee, variable dealer administration fees (up to $399) and $100 A/C charge (where applicable) and excludes licensing, registration, insurance, other taxes and down payment (if applicable and unless otherwise specified). Other lease and financing options also available. ≠Throwback Pricing available O.A.C. on financing offers on new 2013/2014 models. Financing for 84 months example: 2014 Forte LX MT (F0541E)/2014 Rondo LX MT (RN551E)/2014 Sportage LX MT FWD (SP551E) with a purchase price of $17,913/$23,993/$25,193 (including $1,485/$1,665/$1,665 freight/PDI and $399 administration fee) financed at 0%/0%/1.49% for 84-month period equals 32 reduced bi-weekly payments of $78/$88/$99 followed by 150 bi-weekly payments of $98/$128/$146. Cost of borrowing is $0/$0/$1,343.86 and total obligation is $17,913/$23,993/$26,536.86. Throwback Pricing Incentive varies by model and trim level and may be taken as a lump sum or to reduce the financed amount. The Throwback Pricing Incentive for the 2014 Forte LX MT (F0541E)/2014 Rondo LX MT (RN551E)/2014 Sportage LX MT (SP551E) shown is $640/$1,280/$1,504 (a $20/$40/$47 reduction in 32 bi-weekly payments). Limited time offer. See retailer for complete details. Throwback Pricing is a trademark of Kia Canada Inc. [1]Loan credit for 2014 Rondo LX MT (RN551E) is $750 and is available on purchase financing only on approved credit (OAC). Loan savings vary by model and trim and are deducted from the negotiated selling price before taxes. 0% purchase financing is available on select new 2013/2014 Kia models O.A.C. Terms vary by model and trim, see dealer for complete details. △Model shown Manufacturer Suggested Retail Price for 2014 Forte SX (F0748E)/2014 Sportage SX AT Luxury AWD (SP759E)/2014 Rondo EX Luxury (RN756E) is $26,195/$38,295/$32,195. ^Highway/city fuel consumption is based on the 2014 Forte 1.8L MPI 4-cyl (M/T)/2014 Sportage 2.4L 4-cyl (A/T)/2014 Rondo 2.0L GDI 4-cyl (M/T). These updated estimates are based on the Government of Canada's approved criteria and testing methods. Refer to the *EnerGuide Fuel Consumption Guide*. Your actual fuel consumption will vary based on driving habits and other factors. Information in this advertisement is believed to be accurate at the time of printing. For more information on our 5-year warranty coverage, visit kia.ca or call us at 1-877-542-2886. Kia is a trademark of Kia Motors Corporation.